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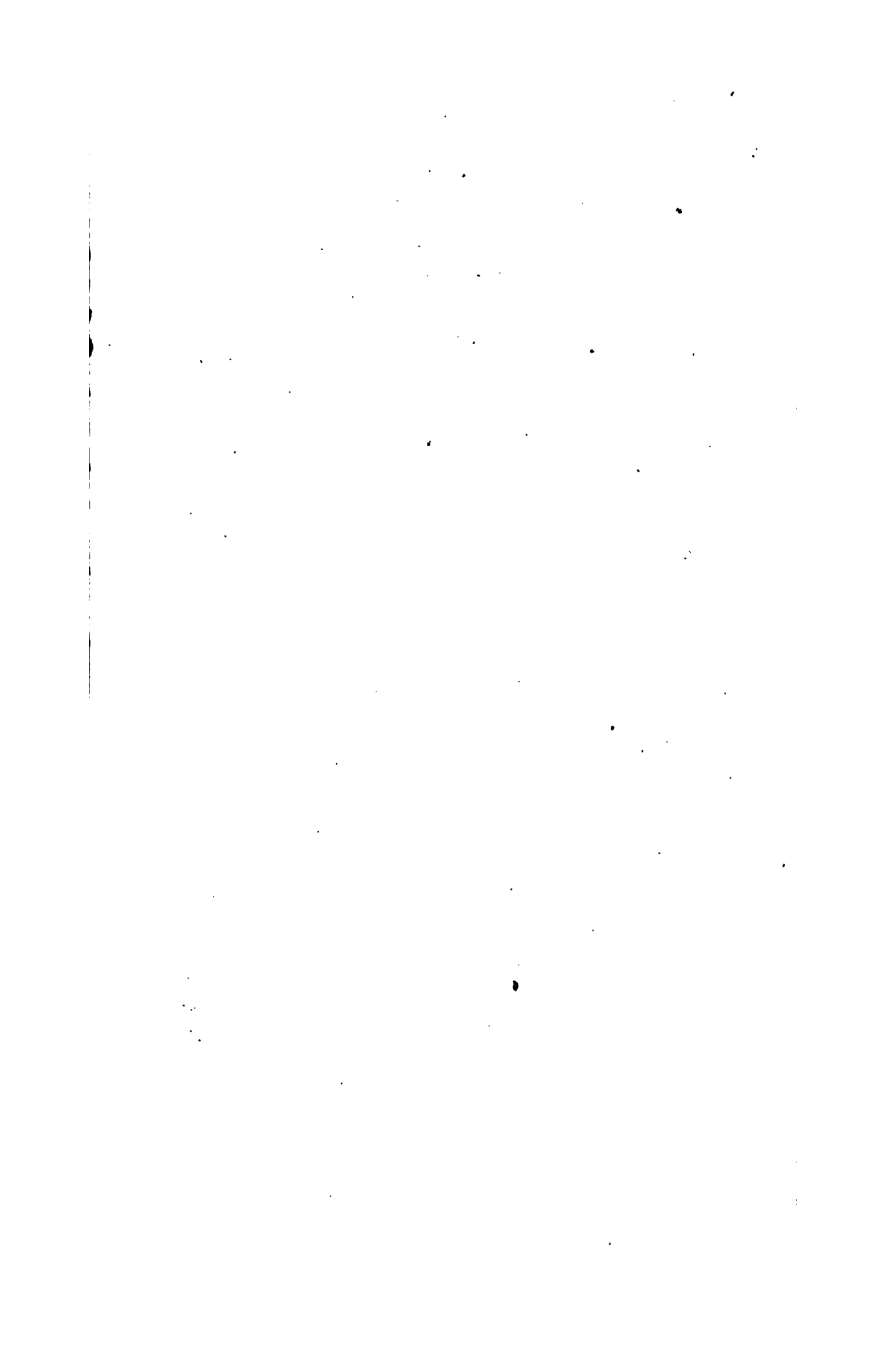
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TINNETHINCH,
The seat of the late Right Hon^{ble} Henry Cotton, M.P.
Co. of Wicklow
Published by Barnes & Lane, and C^o Sept. 1, 1853

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THE
Beauties
OF
I R E L A N D :

BEING
Original Delineations,
TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND BIOGRAPHICAL,
OF EACH COUNTY.

James Norris
BY J. N. BREWER, ESQ.

Author of the Introductory Volume to the Beauties of England and Wales; Delineations
of Gloucestershire, &c. &c.

—♦—
ILLUSTRATED
WITH ENGRAVINGS, BY J. & H. S. STORER,
AFTER ORIGINAL DRAWINGS, CHIEFLY BY MR. PETRIE, OF DUBLIN.

—♦—
" It was a chosen plot of fertile land,
Amongst wide waves sett, like a little nest,
As if it had by Nature's cunning hand
Bene choicely picked out from all the rest."

Spenser's Faerie Queen.

VOL. II.

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TO HIS GRACE
RICHARD-GRENVILLE-BRYDGES-CHANDOS TEMPLE,

DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, K. G. &c. &c.

A Nobleman

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P R E F A C E

TO THE SECOND VOLUME OF THE BEAUTIES OF IRELAND.

ON completing the second volume of the Beauties of Ireland, I have to perform the pleasing duty of repeating my former acknowledgment of literary obligations to COLONEL HERVEY DE MONTMORENCY, from whose extensive topographical and genealogical collections I have derived much original and curious information.

W. SHAW MASON, Esq. has been unremitting in his efforts to serve this publication. The ability of Mr. Mason to afford valuable intelligence on subjects relating to the Statistics of Ireland, will be readily appreciated by those who have inspected his "Statistical Returns for the Barony of Rathvilly, in the county of Carlow," printed by order of the House of Commons, as a specimen of a work, that, when completed, cannot fail to prove of great national importance.

To SHEFFIELD GRACE, Esq. I am indebted for an undeviating politeness of attentions, highly conducive to the advancement of my undertaking.

The honour of several communications from other persons, whose names are likewise calculated to reflect credit on the work to which they have contributed intelligence, shall be duly acknowledged in pages prefatory to the concluding volume.—And here let me remark that, without the

PREFACE.

advantage of such communications, it is scarcely possible for a topographical work to be performed in a manner bearing any resemblance of a satisfactory character. The mere tourist writes an account of what he sees, and his merit depends on the fidelity and spirit of the portraiture. But the present work is obviously of a different, and more comprehensive, kind. Its objects are not confined to a description of the country, with notices respecting the manners of the people. It aims at presenting a compendium of county and local history. To collect the intelligence that public sources may supply, concerning the history of particular places, is one of the first duties of my undertaking, and is readily performed. But the most valuable funds of information on such subjects, can be derived only from the possessors of estates, or persons long resident at the respective places which it is desirable to notice. Thus, the local examination that would prove quite adequate to the purpose of the tourist, is by no means sufficient for the satisfactory execution of the task in which I am engaged.

I profit by the opportunity of dwelling upon this circumstance, as most parts of Ireland are new to topographical inquiry, and many persons, capable of affording the information required, withhold such intelligence, not from a deficiency in literary liberality of manners, but from an erroneous impression respecting the nature of the work to which their communications would be of importance.

As I am now arranging my collections for Connaught and Ulster, I shall deem myself much honoured and favoured if the above remarks procure me any additional correspondents on the topography of those provinces.

Some casual errors are scarcely to be avoided, in a work treating on subjects so multifarious as those embraced by these volumes. One or two typographical mistakes, in regard to figures, have been discovered in the parts already

PREFACE.

published. It appears, also, that, in following the authorities of Walker and Ryan, I have mis-stated the birth-place of Turlough O'Carolan. My authorities assert that the bard was born in the small town of Nobber; but it is said, in some papers published by the Ibero-Celtic Society, under the name of their Transactions, that he was, in fact, a native of Newton, distant from Nobber about three miles and a half.

It is an advantage of a work published in progressive parts, that time is allowed, before its completion, for a discovery of the errors peculiarly unavoidable in topographical labours. A notice of every inaccuracy that can be detected shall be carefully inserted in the final volume; since it is my anxious desire to render this work as correct, as it is, I trust, in every respect impartial.

J. N. BREWER.

PILLERTON HOUSE, WARWICKSHIRE,

March 30, 1826.

B R E W E R ' S

Beauties of Ireland.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

The conclusion of the INTRODUCTION, comprising Remarks on the History, Antiquities, and present state of Ireland, in collective points of view (which part of the work was commenced in the first volume, and is continued in the present) will be given in volume third.

A general and copious INDEX will be given in the last volume, together with Directions to the Binder for arranging the Introduction, and placing the Engravings.

The Illustrations which accompany the second volume are :

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Tlanchinch, Seat of the late Henry Grattan, Esq..... | <i>Co. Wicklow.</i> |
| 2. Balyastragh, Seat of Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart. .. | <i>Co. Wexford.</i> |
| 3. Mount Bellew, Seat of Chr. Dillon Bellew, Esq. | <i>Co. Galway.</i> |
| 4. Ross Castle,..... | <i>Co. Kerry.</i> |
| 5. Mount Cashel, | <i>Co. Tipperary.</i> |
| 6. Swords Castle, | <i>Co. Dublin.</i> |
| 7. Abbey of Multifernan,..... | <i>Co. Westmeath.</i> |
| 8. Edgeworth-Town, Seat of Lovell Edgeworth, Esq. ... | <i>Co. Longford.</i> |
| 9. Carrickfergus, | <i>Co. Antrim.</i> |
| 10. Parsonstown Castle, Seat of the Earl of Rosse, | <i>King's County.</i> |
| 11. Ruins of Clonmacnois, | <i>Iditto.</i> |
| 12. Antiquities discovered at Cashel, in 1824, | <i>Co. Tipperary.</i> |

. It is requested that all Communications, relating to the literary objects of this work, may be addressed to the Author, Pillerton House, Warwickshire; or sent to the care of the Publishers, Messrs. SHAWWOOD and Co. Paternoster Row, London.

THE
Beauties
OF
IRELAND.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

COUNTY OF CARLOW.

THIS small and inland county was made shire-ground by King John, under the name of Catherlough, or Caterlogh. Its greatest length, as computed by Dr. Beaufort, is twenty-six miles, and its extreme width twenty-three miles. On the east and north-east its boundaries meet Wexford and Wicklow. Kilkenny adjoins its borders on the west. On the north and north-west lie Kildare and the Queen's County. This district comprehends the antient territories of "Hy Cavanagh and Hy Drone," being the northern part of the principality of Hy Kinselagh. Its most antient families are the Mac Morough-Kavanaghs; the O'Ryan's; the O'Nolans, and the O'Mores; also the Walls, or Duvals; the St. Aubins; De La Fraynes; De Berminghams; De Carews; Landys, or De La Landes; the Graces; and the Butlers. Since the time of Queen Elizabeth the following, amongst other families, have likewise obtained property and influence in this county: The Bagnals; Eustaces; Burtons; O'Briens of Thomond; Ponsonbys; Hamiltons; Cokes; Bernards; Vigors'; Vicars'; Burdotts; Bunburys; Beresfords; Bruens; Bagots; and Brownes.

Mr. Wakefield notices amongst the principal proprietors of

landed estates, at the present time, the families of Kavanagh; Bruen; Burton; and Rochfort.

This county, after the Strongbonian settlement, became a palatinate in the family of the earl marshal. After the death of William the Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, and of his five sons successive earls, Carlow fell to the share of his daughter, the wife of Hugh le Bigot, Earl of Norfolk; who, in her right, succeeded to the dignity of Earl Marshal of England. This earl, residing in the latter country, confided the seneschalship, or stewardship, of Carlow, as did in like manner the Lord De Carew, Baron of Idrone, the superintendence of his estate in this county, to Donald-Mac Art Kavanagh, one of the antient proprietors of the soil, and a vassal of those noblemen. Instead of executing these trusts with fidelity, Donald-Mac Art seized the first favourable opportunity of shaking off his allegiance to his employers, and, assuming the title of Mac Morough, claimed the sovereignty of this entire quarter of Leinster, founding his pretensions upon his descent from Donald Kavanagh, who had borne the same title, and was the illegitimate son of Dermot Macmorrough, last King of Leinster. Froissard gives a lively, and not uninteresting, character of this turbulent chieftain, concerning whose descendants some further particulars occur in our description of *Borris*, the most distinguished seat in this district. In the present place it may be sufficient to observe that the troubles occasioned by Donald's assumption of local sovereignty, form a prominent feature in the history of the county of Carlow.

The general aspect of this county is agreeable, but partakes less of the sublime and highly-captivating than is witnessed in many other parts of Ireland. In compensation of this deficiency there are few harsh effects of contrast; and the English traveller is often reminded of the equable but grateful seepery to which he is accustomed in the midland districts of his native country. The chief elevations approaching towards the character of mountains, rise on the west side of the river Barrow, and in the southern part of the county, on the borders of Wexford. This latter range commences on the north with the rocky acclivities of

Mount-Leinster, and terminates in the Blackstairs mountains, precipitous in ascent and of a sable hue. The interior of the county is either flat or gently undulating, and the soil of a calcareous and rich nature. The navigable river Barrow flows through the county from north to south; and the Slaney crosses it towards the east; both rivers adding at once to the fertility and beauty of contiguous districts.

The county is divided into five baronies, named *Rivilly*; *Catherlogh*, or Carlow; *Idrone*; *Forth*; and *St. Mullin's*, or *Molin's*. These are again subdivided into fifty parishes, the whole of which are in the diocese of Leighlin.

The quantity of cultivated and uncultivated land is thus stated in Mr. Wakefield's Account of Ireland. *Cultivated land*, 123,516 acres; *uncultivated land*, (mountain and bog) 12,217 acres. Total number of acres 135,733. Much barley, of an excellent quality, is grown in this county, together with considerable quantities of other grain. Large tracts of rich pasture-land are occupied as dairy-farms, and the butter of Carlow has the reputation of being the best that is sent to the Dublin market. "The Dairies," observes the writer last quoted, "consist of from twenty to fifty cows; and, during the season, produce 1½cwt. of butter per cow." Great care is taken in the breed of cattle, and the dairies are frequently let to persons who agree to give a certain sum *per annum*, for what may be termed the usufruct of each cow. The butter is usually sent to Dublin by means of the canal, and large quantities are thence forwarded to London. The farms are frequently large, and are often stocked with fine flocks of long-woolled sheep, many of which are fattened for market.

This county contains numerous seats of gentry, several of which are highly embellished. The principal subjects of antiquarian gratification consist in vestiges of ecclesiastical and military structures, not often on an extensive scale.

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY OF CARLOW,
According to the returns made under an act of Parliament
in 1812.

Baronies, Half Baronies, or Parishes.	Number of Houses.	Gross Population.
Carlow,	2,032	12,006
Forth,	1,621	9,578
Idrone East,	3,147	17,579
Idrone West,	1,099	6,190
St. Mullin's,	1,517	8,688
Rathvilly,	2,674	15,525
TOTAL—	12,090	69,566

According to the returns made in the year 1821, the number of houses was 13,854; and the number of inhabitants, 81,287. Thus, according to those returns, the increase of inhabitants between the years 1813 and 1821, would appear to have amounted to 11,721.

CARLOW,

The assize town of this county, is a neat, and, in many parts, a well-built town, of considerable extent, agreeably and eligibly situated on the banks of the river Barrow.* The surrounding country wears a cheerful aspect of cultivation, and the town is sheltered, in several directions, by lovely ranges of hills, so soft in character, and of so gentle an ascent, that they are often cultivated to the summit, whilst their sides are enlivened with farm-dwellings, scattered over the scene in picturesque irregularity.

Many historical events relating to this town are closely connected with the annals of its antient castle; but some few notices, of more general application, may be inserted in the present page. As a proof of the rising importance of Carlow in the fourteenth

* The annexed view of Carlow is taken from the road to Leighlin bridge, at the distance of about one quarter of a mile from the town. From this point of prospect are seen the bridge, the church, and the remains of the castle.

century, it must be mentioned that Lionel Duke of Clarence, second son of Edward III. and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1361, removed the exchequer to this place, and contributed the sum of £500. towards the charge of encompassing the town with a strong wall. In the year 1577, Carlow was burnt, after a siege of considerable duration, by Rory-Oge O'More, then in rebellion against Queen Elizabeth. It was, probably, in a great part owing to the injuries then committed on its fortifications, that the town submitted, without an attempt at resistance, to Oliver Cromwell, in the seventeenth century, who placed there a garrison of 700 men. In the year 1642, however, Sir Patrick Wemys, of Deansfort, in the county of Kilkenny, an officer in the army of the Duke of Ormonde, was sent to its relief. The garrison fled on his approach, but not until they had set fire to several parts of the town. On the 25th of May, in the calamitous year 1798, this place was assailed by an undisciplined, forlorn, and hopeless body of insurgents, the greater number of whom were in a state of intoxication. These miserable assailants were, of course, easily repulsed and put to flight; and a lamentable scene of carnage immediately commenced. Many were shot from the windows. Others took shelter in the houses forming Tullow Street; on which (writes Sir Richard Musgrave, with a vulgarity of language and coarseness of feeling, happily unpractised by other historians) "the soldiers set fire" to the houses, "*to make them bolt!*" We forbear to follow further the various disgusting accounts of this day's transactions, but must observe that about 417 bodies were subsequently "buried in three gravel-pits, and covered with quick lime, at the other side of the Graigue bridge."

The *Castle* of Carlow was a fortress of Anglo-Norman origin, and evidently erected in an age quickly succeeding the entrance of Strongbow, but its precise date, and the name of its founder, are equally unknown; some writers ascribing its foundation to King John, and others to the Lord Justice Lacey, to Isabel, daughter of Strongbow, or to Hugh Bigot, fourth Earl of Norfolk, who married Maud her eldest daughter and co-heir, and became

thereby, Lord of Carlow. Although few particulars have been preserved concerning its remote history, it is evident that this castle was long regarded as one of the principal protections of the English pale in Leinster. Among the occurrences presented against Gerald, eighth Earl of Kildare, and his brother James Fitz-Gerald, for which they were attainted by an act of the Parliament held at Drogheda in 1494, was that of their having resided on the *King's Castle* of Carlow. We have already stated that Rory-Oge O'More burned the town of Carlow in 1577; and it must be added, that he, at the same time, captured its protecting fortress.* In the civil war of the seventeenth century the castle was alternately possessed by the two chief contending parties, but did not, at that era, form the scene of any very important military transactions, and has since, until lately, remained in majestic solitude, free from any efforts towards inhabitation.

This noble pile was constructed on a slight eminence, upon the west side of the town, overhanging the river Barrow. It was of a square form, flanked with a circular tower at each angle. The doors were remarkably low and narrow, and the apertures for the admission of light consisted chiefly, or entirely, of loop-holes. From the grandeur of its proportions, and the favourable character of its situation, which allowed a free view of its massy towers and rugged sides from the various roads which lead to the town, this august pile constituted a feature of peculiar magnificence in the architectural display of Carlow. But folly and presumption have recently deprived the pictorial examiner, and the antiquary, of an object so well calculated for their gratification.—The manner

* A tomb has been recently discovered, of good workmanship, the top of which presents a recumbent figure, clothed in armour; and round the edge the following inscription appears, in gothic characters. "Hic Jacet Robertus Hartpole Constabularius de Catherlagh Septuagesarius interuit 3 Octobris 1594." Sir Robert Hartpole, constable of the Castle of Carlow, was settled at Shrute in the Queen's County, of which county he was governor. Tradition represents him as a sanguinary, as well as a very vigilant officer, in repressing popular commotions. In the Lord Deputy's state letters he is recommended to the Queen, as entitled to her especial favour and princely reward.

of Carlow, including this noble monument of antiquity, passed, in consequence of an unredeemed mortgage, from a late Earl of Thomond to the family of a Mr. Hamilton, his Lordship's law agent, who are the present proprietors. By this family a lease of the castle was granted, in the year 1814, to a physician, named Middleton, who had formed the project of establishing in Carlow a *maison de Santé* for the reception of lunatics, and who speedily commenced operations, with a view of rendering the building amenable to his purpose. As the loop-holes in the walls were not sufficient to give the requisite light and ventilation, and as the thickness of the walls contracted undesirably the space of the rooms, this person, confiding in his own skill, undertook to enlarge the windows and diminish the thickness of the walls, without calling professional knowledge to his assistance. For the latter object he laboured by a process rather new in practice, namely, that of blasting the walls with gunpowder. He had not proceeded far in his *improvements*, when the pile, which had for so many ages defied the efforts of the battering ram, yielded to this more fearful mode of assault, and more than one half of the castle fell to the ground! Only the western side, comprising two of the angular towers, is now remaining.*

A large and commodious house, for the use of the governor, was built by Sir John Villiers, in the vicinity of the castle. In

* This tremendous downfall occurred at the hour of nine in the morning, a time at which the workmen had suspended their labour, and happily no life was lost. The huge masses of ruin incumber the whole of the mount, except the west side, and mix with cottages at its base; which are inferior in size to many of these ponderous fragments. A man who was a witness of this unusual accident, described the spectacle to the present writer in very lively terms, and observed that the downfall was so slow in operation that a person had sufficient time to escape from the sphere of destruction (as was the case with himself) after viewing the portentous and amazing nodding of the towers. The immense pile gradually disparted into vast masses, which broke with difficulty into fragments less mighty. Many gigantic pieces of the ruin rolled to the very doors of some humble cottages, on the opposite side of a road at the base of the castle-mount.

the same neighbourhood may also be seen the ruins of a chapel, dedicated to St. Michael.

The *Parochial Church* is a plain but spacious building, having at the west end a square tower of stone, surmounted by a spire of heavy and unpleasing proportions. The interior contains several sepulchral monuments, but not any that would appear to be of public interest. The Roman Catholic chapel is a large and respectable structure. There are meeting-houses for Methodists and Quakers.

In this town is a *College*, for the education of youth of the Roman Catholic persuasion, founded by the late Dr. O'Keeffe, R. C. Bishop of Leighlin, and other divines of the same church. The foundation is designed for the tuition of 100 boys, fifty of whom are educated for the priesthood. The buildings are very spacious, but not of an ornamental character, with the exception of the chapel, which is a neat and well-preserved structure, having a contiguous burial ground. About seven acres of land are attached to this scholastic institution. The buildings are secluded and well-placed, the college-precincts being surrounded with high walls.

The *Court-house*, in which the county assizes are held, was built, subsequent to the troubles of 1798, on the site of a former gaol. This is a mean building, as regards its architectural character, but is commodious, and comprises a good ball-room. Among recent institutions, creditable to the taste and the humanity of the inhabitants, must be noticed a reading-room and a dispensary.

Carlow was incorporated by King James I, and is governed by a sovereign and two serjeants. This town returns one member to the imperial parliament.

OAK PARK (formerly called *Paynestown*), the seat of Henry Bruen, Esq. representative of this county in parliament, is situated at a short distance from Carlow, towards the north. The house, which is a spacious building with wings, is handsome and convenient. The grounds are flat, but enriched with extensive woods of full-grown oak. The family of Coke was seated at Paynestown

through many generations. Thomas Coke, Esq. dying without legitimate male issue, his estates passed to the late Earl of Kenmare, by whom this place was sold to the father of the present owner. A small friary of Franciscans, not noticed by Archdall, was founded here by the family of Coke. The convent stood in the vicinity of the mansion, but was levelled with the ground by the first possessor of this estate of the name of Bruen.

BROWNE HILL, the seat of William Browne, Esq. is distant from Carlow one mile and a quarter, towards the east, and was built by the late Robert Browne, Esq. after the plan of Mr. Peters, architect. The demesne-lands are well laid out and planted. Browne-hill and the contiguous seat, termed Viewmount, occupy the site of a former monastery, called St. Kieran's Abbey, three towers of which building were standing about seventy years since. The latest remains were, however, taken down by the family of Browne, and the materials used in erecting Viewmount-house and the park wall at Browne-hill. At the period of the suppression, an ancestor of the Earl of Thomond obtained a grant of St. Kieran's Abbey, and the lands attached to that religious house. The line of the Browne family settled at this place derives from the house of Rokewood Hall, Abbess Roding, and Weald Hall, in Essex. In the year 1650, Robert, second son of John Browne, of Wickham and Abbess-Roding, Esq. passed into Ireland, and his descendant, the late Robert Browne, Esq. purchased the estates in this county, now in the possession of the present proprietor.*

VIEWMOUNT, noticed above as a seat contiguous to Browne-hill, is also the property of Mr. Browne, but is in the occupation of ——— Bennet, Esq. This seat, as the name indicates, commands an admirable prospect over the surrounding country. Here resided, very generally respected and beloved until the fatal year 1798, Sir Edward Crosbie, Bart. unhappily the victim, at that period, of the intolerance and sus-

* Vide Geneal. Mems. of the family of Montmorency, by Colonel Harvey De Montmorency. 1 Vol. 4to. Paris 1817, p. 319. n.

picion, which, in times of civil commotion, rarely fail to infect the minds of subordinate instruments of office, "armed with brief authority."*

In the vicinity of Viewmount is one of the largest Cromlechs to be seen in Ireland, which is described in the following words by the late Mr. Beauford, in the work upon Irish Antiquities, published under the name of Grose. "It consists of an immense rock-stone, raised on an edge from its native bed, and supported on the east by three pillars. At a distance is another pillar, by itself, nearly round, and five feet high. The dimensions of the supporters and covering-stones are as follow :

	ft.	in.
Height of the three supporters	5	8
Thickness of the upper end of the covering stone	4	6
Breadth of the same	18	9
Length of the slope inside	19	0
Length of the outside	22	10"†

CLOUGHGERRAN, the estate of J. S. Rochfort, Esq. situated on the borders of the river Barrow, is a domain abounding in natural charms, and further enriched by some noble vestiges of antiquity. The lucid course of the Barrow is here adorned with several well-wooded islets; and the mountains of the Queen's County, a lovely range of elevations, clothed with wood to a considerable height, terminate the demesne towards the west. The grounds attached to the mansion are finally diversified by inequalities of surface, and ornamented with thriving plantations, and much timber, often of a venerable growth. The house is of modern erection, and is a plain building, respectable in character, and ex-

* For particulars respecting the fate of this gentleman (a fate that has long since afforded cause of lamentation to all parties), see "An Account and impartial Narration of the Apprehension, &c. of Sir Edward Crosbie, Bart. published in Justice to his Memory by his Family." Printed at Bath, and reprinted at Dublin.

† Grose, vol. i. article Pagan Antiqs. in which work is an engraving, but not after a correct drawing, of this remarkable cromlech.

tremely comfortable, but scarcely worthy of its situation on a demesne of such distinguished beauty.

Cloughgrenan was an ancient estate of the house of Ormonde, and was purchased of the Duke of Ormonde by the great grandfather of the present proprietor, about the year 1680. From this demesne the two Earls of Arran, namely, Richard, son of the first Duke of Ormonde, and Charles the first duke's brother, took the title of Barons in the Irish peerage. The remains of the deserted castle are still standing, near the modern residence of Mr. Rochfort, which is approached through one of the ancient embattled gateways. The ruins of the castle are overgrown with ivy, and constitute one of the most picturesque objects in this county. A decayed church, also, mingles its pensive beauties with the numerous charms of the scenery on this favoured spot. The Castle of Cloughgrenan was taken in the year 1668, by Sir Peter Carew from Sir Edmund Butler, who was then in rebellion against Queen Elizabeth. In the year 1642, this fortress was besieged by the Irish, but was relieved by Colonel Sir Patrick Wemyss. Here, in 1649, previous to the battle of Rathmines, the Marquess of Ormonde, then proprietor of this manor, assembled and mustered the united Protestant and Catholic royalist army.

In a ford of the river Barrow, at the distance of about one quarter of a mile from the castle of Cloughgrenan, there were found, in the year 1819, several relics of a very remote age, consisting of brazen swords, chiefly broken or much bent; arrow-heads; a scull, and other human bones.*

BALLYMOUNT, the residence of the family of Vigors, is situated on sloping ground upon the bank of the river Barrow. This demesne, which comprises a delightful walk along the borders of the river, is highly adorned with thriving plantations.

* MS. information of J. S. Rochfort Esq. It is to be regretted that the workmen who discovered these antiquities had privately disposed of nearly the whole, before the circumstance was known to Mr. Rochfort. One entire sword, and two broken swords, were obtained by that gentleman, and are now in his possession. They are sharp-pointed and two edged, the brass, of which they are chiefly composed, appearing to be alloyed with tin.

GARRYHUNDEN, distant from Carlow four miles, is the antient mansion of Sir Richard Butler, Bart.

BORRIS CASTLE, the superb seat of Thomas Kavanagh, Esq. is distant from the town of Carlow about twelve miles, towards the south. This is, in every respect, the finest and most interesting residence in the county of Carlow. The estate of Borris would appear to be formed by the hand of nature for the site of a baronial mansion. The extensive demesne abounds in inequalities of surface, and is richly wooded. The river Barrow flows along its borders, and a mountain-stream penetrates the interior, rolling over a bed of broken rocks. The Black-stairs mountains, which terminate the prospect towards the south-east, form a boundary, in that direction, of unusual grandeur.

The house, originally a large and square but unornamented building, was erected by the grandfather of the present proprietor, and the chief architectural alterations were carried into effect by the late Walter Kavanagh, Esq., his elder brother, the architect employed being the Messrs. Morrison. By those gentlemen it was correctly perceived that a mansion of modern features would bear no affinity of character to the bold, august, and picturesque scenery of this demesne. They adopted, therefore, as the model of their improvements, the English baronial mansion of the sixteenth century, turretted and rich in detail, examples of which style may be seen at Hatfield and Burleigh. Without disputing the judgment of these tasteful and able architects, it may, perhaps, be doubtful whether, considering the prevailing tone of the surrounding scenery, and the high antiquity of the family seated through almost countless generations on this demesne, a model of a date still more remote might not have been selected, with an increased degree of effect in congruity of keeping. The abode of the Kavanaghs, placed amidst the natural grandeur of Borris, must have appeared congenial to the family and the country, if castellated in the magnificent taste of the third Edward. Still, the building, as altered after the designs of the Messrs. Morrison, is so very splendid a specimen of the order of mansions which it is intended to represent, that few

spectators will fail to rest contented with the efforts of the architects. Convenience, in this noble residence, is carefully blended with ornament; and, contrary to the perverse custom in many decorated dwellings, it may be safely affirmed that the genius of the builder is most forcibly displayed in the interior. The principal apartments are spacious, appropriate, and chastely, although sumptuously, adorned.

The demesne of Borris has constituted, for numerous successive ages, the chief residence of the senior representatives of the posterity of Donald Kavanagh, natural son of Dermot Mac-morough, the last King of Leinster.* The descendants of that distinguished personage have performed prominent parts in the affairs of Ireland, at many eventful junctures. Owing to the troubled state of the country, and the antient claims of this potent race, we chiefly, until recent more settled and pacific ages, recognise the name in conjunction with scenes of turbulence, but are often constrained to admire instances of individual heroism. Happily, for several generations, the same ardour of family feeling has been employed in genuine patriotism, and such acts of local beneficence as fall more peculiarly within the sphere of the topographer's consideration.

We forbear from following the varied fortunes of this very antient and illustrious family through the centuries briefly succeeding the introduction of the Anglo-Normans by King Dermot, and observe that, on the 4th of November, 1550; Charles, or Cahir, Mac Art Macmorough Kavanagh, of Polmonty, chief of the name, in the great council-chamber of Dublin, and in the presence of the lord lieutenant, Sir Anthony St. Leger, and other official and distinguished persons, submitted himself, and publicly renounced the title and dignity of Mac Monough, as borne by his ancestors. Upon which occasion, as was usual in those times, he "parted

* The reader will recollect that in our notice of *Ferns* (County of *Wexford*) we have presented some remarks of the Chevalier De Montmorency, showing that in Ireland, from the earliest periods down to a date so recent as the sixteenth century, illegitimacy was, for many political reasons, not viewed in a humiliating light.

with a portion of his estates." Four years subsequent to submission, this chieftain was created by Queen Mary a peer life, by the title of Baron of Balygan, in the county of Wexford.

Notwithstanding this increasing amity between the chief and the English government, we find different members of the sept engaged in ambitious struggles for power at various subsequent periods. In the year 1552, Hugh Mac Morough claimed the discarded chieftainship, and repaired to arms in support of his pretensions. The assumption of this title had now come to be merely a subject of contention between rival individuals; the hand of government interfered to crush so serious an effort at independence. Sir Nicholas Bagenal, knight-marshal, marched a body of troops against the aspiring Hugh; and a desperate conflict ensued, which, we are told, was "so well fought on either side, that the loss, as well as the victory, is uncertain."

Donald-Spaniagh (*the Spaniard*) was a turbulent person of the sept of Kavanagh, in the latter part of the sixteenth century.* In the year 1595, this Donald, in conjunction with Pheagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne (often noticed in our description of the County of Wicklow) ravaged the entire country from Wicklow to the gates of Dublin. His aggressions remained some time unavenged, but, in the year 1600, Sir Oliver Larling, the British general, invaded the lands of Donald-Spaniagh, made a prey of 1000 cows, 500 garrons (small horses), and a great store of sheep. This daring toparch died at his castle of Clonmolina, in the year 1631, or 1632, and was succeeded in the family domain by his son, Sir Morgan Kavanagh of Borris Castle; in the year 1642, was garrisoned by the parliamentarians; and the building then experiencing a siege by the Irish, Sir Charles Coote, with some difficulty, threw into the place a reinforcement of men and provisions. After the restoration of King Charles II. Bryan Kavanagh, Esq. was suffered to ren-

* The epithet of *Spaniagh* was frequently applied by the English to the person so termed, not because the person so termed was born or bred in Spain, but on account of his having a yellow or sallow complexion, resembling, it was supposed, that of the Spanish people.

unmolested possession of his estates, which comprised the barony of St. Molis's, and now form the inheritance of the representative of this distinguished family, Thomas Kavanagh, Esq. brother-in-law, and maternal cousin-german, of the late marquess, and of the present earl, of Ormonde.

During the insurrection in 1798, this part of the country was exposed to many of those excesses which must be expected to stain the annals of factious contention. At that time the house of Borris was placed in a state of defence, and successfully withstood a tumultuous attack and a formal siege from the insurgent party.*

KALLYSTOWN, or KALLETSTOWN, is distant from Carlow about five miles towards the south-east. The more ancient name of

* The events connected with the attack of Borris Castle are thus stated in Mr. Hay's Hist. of the Insurrection of 1798. "As the insurgents had not a sufficiency of gunpowder to undertake any new attack, they remained inactive in their several encampments for some days; but in order to obtain a supply of that article, it was resolved to make an attack on Borris, the seat of Walter Kavanagh, Esq. in the county of Carlow, where, it was supposed, lay a great quantity of arms and ammunition. A detachment accordingly proceeded from the camp on Vinegar-hill to that on Lacken-hill, where, receiving reinforcement, the united party moved forward to the attack of Borris, where they arrived after a night's march, early on the morning of the 12th. The cavalry stationed there fled on the approach of the insurgents, but a party of the Donegall militia, who had taken up their quarters in the house, defended it with great bravery, keeping up a constant fire from the upper windows, and losing but one man in the course of the contest. The cannon the insurgents had brought with them were too small to have any effect on the castle, as the only ball discharged by one of them, rebounded from the wall, and an attack by musketry was of course considered ineffectual. As no hopes then remained of taking the mansion by assault or battery, considering the strength and thickness of the wall, and that the lower windows were also lately built up with strong mason-work, the assailants set the outer offices on fire, in hopes of forcing the garrison to dislodge themselves for their protection; but this manœuvre proving ineffectual, and the insurgents having expended all their ammunition in useless efforts, and having burnt some houses in the village, returned to the several encampments from which they had been detached in the county of Wexford."—Hist. of the Insurrection, &c. p.p. 190—191.

this place is *Cill-mna-ur-icéal-na-moén*, the church of the mourning Munster women; allusive to a sanguinary battle fought here, in, or about, the year 478, in which the Momonian warriors were defeated and slaughtered by the Lagenians. We are told by the Irish annalists that this battle was fought between the men of Leinster, headed by Lughaidh, the monarch, grandson of King Niall of the nine hostages, and Eocha, King of Munster and his forces.—At Kellystown are the remains of a pillar-tower standing in an elevated situation. This structure is formed of the grit stone of the country, and measures internally two feet diameter. Near the tower are the ruins of a church; and the fabrics were dedicated to St. Patrick, who has the credit of having been their founder. The church is, likewise, built of grit-stone and the arches are plain and semi-circular. Here is the place of sepulture of the Mac Cumins, or Cummins, a subordinate chieftain formerly seated in this part of the country. The tombstone of persons of this name are numerous, but the most antient inscription now remaining is to “Hugo Mac Cummins, A.D. MDCII.” The antient baptismal font still remains in this ruined church and is rudely cut from a single stone, in the shape of an inscribed vase.

TULLOW, TULLAGH, or TULLYOPHELM, a small town, situated on the river Slaney, near the eastern borders of the county, presents the remains of a monastic building and a castle. Concerning the religious house at this place little is now known, except

* The following remarks may be useful, in conveying to the Reader intelligence concerning the derivation of the names of several septa.—St. Cumineus, bishop and abbot of Endrom (Antrim) died 658. Another sainted personage of this name (founder of the monastery of Kilcuimin, in the modern barony of Clonlisk in the King's County formerly called Disert-Cuimin) died A.D. 668. No doubt the sept which we have alluded above, bearing a peculiar veneration to one of these saints, chose him for their patron, and adopted to his honor the name of Mac Cumin, or rather Mac-giola-Cuimin, the son of the sept of Cuimin; which, like the Mac-giola-Patrick of the dynasty of the O'Neills, and others, continued to be the hereditary surname of that particular sept. MSS. of Chev. De Montmorency.

that its inmates followed the rule of St. Augustine, and that their possessions were granted, at some time subsequent to the dissolution, to Thomas Earl of Ormonde.* The Castle of Tullow was erected late in the twelfth century, by order of the Anglo-Norman government, under the inspection of Hugh De Lacy, Earl of Meath. This fortress was held by Colonel Butler, in 1650, against Oliver Cromwell; but, after a valiant resistance, was taken by the parliament forces under Colonels Hewson and Reynolds. As was usual in the ferocious wars of the seventeenth century, the reduction of the castle was followed by the infliction of detestable cruelties on the subdued garrison.—A monastic establishment exists here, founded within the last thirty years.

The following seats are conspicuous in the vicinity of the town of Tullow.—*Adristan*, the residence of Mr. Finlay. *Mount-wollesley*, the handsome seat of Sir Richard Wollesley, Bart; adjoining which is *Castlemore*, formerly a seat of the Kavanaghs, now of the family of Eustace.—*Rathrush*, a manor belonging to Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency, is distant from Tullow three miles; and, within one mile of that demesne, is *Balynunnery*, the seat of Mr. Swift.† Some ruins of *Castle-Grace* are still to

* Theobald, the grandson and heir of Sir Edmund Butler, of Rosera and Cloughrenan Castles, was created, in 1603, *Viscount Tullisophelim*. The titles of Ormonde and Ossory were likewise secured to him, but his lordship dying in 1613, without issue by his wife, the Lady Elizabeth Butler, only child of Thomas, tenth Earl of Ormonde, K. G. his line became extinct. Richard, the fifth son of the first Duke of Ormonde, was in 1630, created Baron of Cloughrenan, Viscount Tullow and Earl of Arran, but died without issue male in 1685. These titles were in 1693, again revived in the person of Charles, the second and youngest son of the justly celebrated Thomas Earl of Ossory, and brother of the unfortunate Duke of Ormonde, who was attainted in 1716. This Earl of Arran also died without issue male in 1753, when these titles became a second time extinct.

† This seat would appear, from its name, to have been originally a convent of nuns. It is not improbable that this is the place called by Dr. O'Halloran *Killidan* (the dowry-church) and which was unknown to the author of the *Monasticon*. The foundation is said to have been made

be seen, which building was, probably, founded by the Grace family, who were among the earliest landed proprietors in this county. This antient structure, and a considerable estate around it, have been, however, for a very long period in the possession of the Earls of Ormonde. In the years 1268 and 1275, we find two persons named William le Gras governors of Carlow for the Roger Bigots, the fourth and fifth Earls of Norfolk, lords palatine.

LEIGHLIN, usually termed OLD LEIGHLIN, now a small village, was formerly a place of considerable importance, and is still an episcopal see, but united to the diocess of Ferns. A monastery was established here, early in the 7th century, by St. Gobban, which was surrendered, according to Archdall, by the founder to St. Lasarian, first bishop of Leighlin; who "at one time had 1500 monks under his jurisdiction." Here was, also, a Priory, dedicated to St. Stephen; which, as we are told by the annalist Thady Dowling, "was founded by Burchard, a Norwegian captain."* This foundation was dissolved in 1432, by consent of Pope Eugene IV. and its estates were annexed to the deanery of Leighlin.

by St. Kieran, before the arrival of St. Patrick, and the nunnery to have been the oldest in the island. MSS. of the Chev. De Montmorency.

* Dowling, the friar and annalist, adds further that, in his time, the tomb of this Burchard, or Bouchard, was remaining, with his effigies reposing upon it, and an inscription in Latin, of which that writer preserves a copy. It would appear to be extremely probable that the whole of the particulars presented by Dowling, respecting "Burchard, the son of Gormendus," are founded in error, proceeding from misinterpreted tradition. It must be nearly superfluous to observe that the monument to which he alludes, if ornamented with the effigies of the deceased person whom it was designed to commemorate, could not, according to all rational conclusion, be of greater antiquity than the latter part of the twelfth century. The Chevalier De Montmorency, in some learned and ingenious MS. remarks upon the subject, is of opinion that the tomb in question "had been raised in honour of an Anglo-Norman chief, named Bouchard, seated at Wexford, which place by the Irish was called *Lough Gormond*; according to which hypothesis the inscription preserved by Dowling may be thus translated: "Here lieth interred the ducal founder of Leighlin.

"Behold, Bouchard of Gormond (Wexford) a man grateful to the church."

The ecclesiastical institutions of Leighlin speedily led to the formation of a populous town; but various calamities, arising from intestine warfare, interfered with the prosperity of the inhabitants. Amongst these it may be noticed that the town was attacked and wasted, by the people of Ossory, in the year 978, and was destroyed by fire in 1060. Many advantages were obtained for the inhabitants by the exertions of Bishop Herlewin. In 1216, this prelate, writes Dr. Ledwich, "had the town incorporated, and obtained for the burgesses privileges similar to those enjoyed by the people of Bristol, with liberties extending about a mile and a half round the town. Large stones define the extent of these liberties, and on them were these words; "Terminus Burgens. Lecklinen. hic lapis est." One of these stones stands near Leighlin bridge, another near Wells, and a third in the mountains."

In 1389, the town was again destroyed in party warfare; but was so far recovered in the year 1400, as to possess eighty-six burgage tenements. Amongst its buildings, at the same time, are mentioned an episcopal palace, a deanery-house, and a monastery. The erection of a bridge over the river Barrow, in the fourteenth century,* by giving a new direction to the great southern road, obviously accelerated the decay of this town, which now retains no vestige of its former importance, except the cathedral.

The *Cathedral Church* of Leighlin is a small, but decent, structure, of cruciform arrangement, and in the pointed style. We are told by Ware that the antient cathedral having been destroyed by fire, the whole was rebuilt by Bishop Donat, who died in 1185. This structure falling to decay, the choir was again re-edified by bishop Saunders, who was advanced to this see in 1527. The work of the latter prelate constitutes the chief part of the present cathedral, which also acts as the parochial church. Several bishops were here interred, but without existing monu-

* See article *Leighlin Bridge*.

ments.* At a small distance from the church is a well, dedicated to St. Laserian, now shaded by trees; in the vicinity of which is a stone cross, of rude workmanship.

Leighlin was constituted an episcopal see about the year 632, by St. Laserian, otherwise called Moliasa, who was consecrated a bishop by Pope Honorius, and appointed by that pontiff legate of Ireland. The interests of the see experienced great injury from the frequent wars which harassed this district, but these evils were as constantly repaired by the active exertions of several spirited and able prelates, until the latter years of the sixteenth century, at which time bishop Daniel Kavanagh (who succeeded to this see in 1567, and died in 1567,) by granting long leases, and other unjustifiable acts, committed irremediable damage on the episcopal property. In the year 1600, after a vacancy of nearly three years, this see was united to the bishopric of Ferns; which union has ever since subsisted. For a list of the prelates who sat at Leighlin we refer to the "History of the Bishops of Ireland" by Sir James Ware. An enumeration of the bishops who have held this see in conjunction with Ferns, is presented in our account of the latter place.

The diocese of Leighlin, according to Dr. Beaufort, "is of a very irregular form; in some places but six, and in none above thirteen miles broad, though it is thirty-nine miles long, from north to south." It comprises eighty-nine parishes; seven of which are in the county of Wicklow; forty-nine in Carlow; twenty-seven in the Queen's County; and six in the county of Kilkenny.

* There are, however, in this reclusé cathedral church, numerous sepulchral inscriptions to members of several families long seated in neighbouring districts, including the distinguished family of Kavanagh. The most antient inscription is to—*Kavanagh, daughter to Maurice, son of Donat, who died A. D. 1500. On the tomb of Mary, wife of Richard Figgis, who died A. D. 1703-4, are the following lines:*

Thou dust and clay, tell me I say,
Where is thy beauty fled?
Was it in vain? or doth it gain
The favour of the dead?

The Chapter is composed of a dean; precentor; chancellor; treasurer; archdeacon; and four prebendaries.

LEIGHLIN-BRIDGE is the name given to a small post and fair town, distant about two miles from Old Leighlin, and situated on the banks of the river Barrow. The origin of a settlement at this place may be traced to the twelfth century.—About the year 1181, a castle was erected here by John de Clahul, or de Claville, with the sanction of Earl Hugh de Lacy. The remains of this building, chiefly consisting of a square tower, richly clothed with ivy, are still to be seen, in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. This was usually termed the *Black Castle*. A second fortress was built at “New Leighlin”, in the year 1408, by Gerald, fifth Earl of Kildare, on which the founder bestowed the appellation of *White Castle*, in contradistinction to the name of the structure erected by De Claville.—In 1577, “the castle of Leighlin” was taken by Rory-Oge O’More, the turbulent dynast of Leix, who, at the same time, destroyed the town by fire. The same fortress was again taken by Colonel Hewson, for Oliver Cromwell, in 1649.

A *monastery* for Carmelite friars was founded on a spot near the Black Castle, upon the east bank of the Barrow, by De Carew, baron of Idrome, towards the close of the reign of Henry III. After the suppression of religious houses this monastery, then in the hands of the government, was occasionally occupied by Sir Edward Bellingham, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who, in the year 1547, surrounded the abbey with a wall, and built here a fort. It is worthy of remark that Sir Edward Bellingham established at this place (as likewise at Abbey-Leix) *harras*, or studs of horses, of an improved and better breed than had before been known in Ireland, for the use of his own household, and for the public service.

The most curious vestige of antiquity in this neighbourhood consists in a *Rath*, exhibiting the extensive remains of an earth-work, formerly a place of inhabitation. Some funeral urns have been found here, composed of earthen ware, and containing nothing more than a small portion of dust.

The *Bridge* of Leighlin, comprising ten arches, was built by

Maurice Jakis, a canon of the cathedral of Kildare, about the year 1320. A church, recently erected, occupies the site of the abbey. This is a small and plain building, in some degree imitative of the pointed style of architecture.

At **DUNLECKNEY**, near the village of *Bagenal's-bridge*, (where a stone-bridge is constructed over the river Barrow) is the antient seat of the Bagenals, which very respectable family first settled in this county shortly after the year 1553, the date of a well-fought battle between the forces of government, under the command of Sir Nicholas Bagenal, knight-marshal, and the followers of Hugh Mac-Merough Kavanagh.—The late proprietor, Beauchamp Bagenal, Esq. M.P. bequeathed this demesne to ——— Ryan, Esq. the present owner of the estate, who, as we are informed, is the lineal male representative of the chief of the O'Ryans, toparch of Idrone (in which barony Dunleckney is situated) at the period of the Anglo-Norman invasion.

WELLS, nominally a fair town, but, in reality, a small humble village, in the barony of Idrone, contained a monastic edifice, of which considerable traces remain. There exists a tradition that Wells was formerly endowed with borough franchise and was the assize town of this county. Here is one of the stoniest manorial crosses of the 17th century.

BURTON HALL, the handsome seat of the Burton family, situated on the banks of a small river, which forms the lineal boundary between the counties of Carlow and Kildare. The mansion occupies a pleasing eminence, and is approached through a long and wide avenue of well-grown trees, flanked with woods, cut into numerous vistas. The park in the rear comprises two hundred acres of land, enclosed by walls, and is remarkably planted.

COUNTY OF KILDARE.

THIS "midland county of Leinster" is contiguous, on the west, to the King's and Queen's Counties, from the latter of which districts it is chiefly separated by the river Barrow. On the north lies Meath, the line of division between Kildare and that district being partly formed by the Blackwater. On the east are the counties of Dublin and Wicklow. Its southern extremity unites with the borders of Carlow. The greatest length, as stated by Mr. Rawson, in his "Statistical Survey," is about thirty-two miles, and the extreme breadth twenty-one miles. The number of Baronies and half-baronies is fourteen; and the names by which they are distinguished are as follow: *Carbury; Claine; Connell; East Ophaley; East Narragh and Rhoban; Iheathy and Oughterany; Kilkallen; Kilkea and Moone; North Naas; North Salt; South Naas; South Salt; West Ophaley; West Narragh and Rhoban*. These baronies are subdivided into 113 parishes, 57 of which are under the see of Dublin, and 56 under that of Kildare.

Nearly one fifth part of this county is occupied by bog, including a considerable portion of the great chain of morasses termed the Bog of Allen. In other parts the country has a surface slightly undulating, but in no instance does it assume a mountainous character. The natural soil is a strong and productive clay, and there is much rich pasture-ground. This district is abundantly watered. The river Barrow, which passes through more than twenty miles on the south and west, is navigable from Monasteran, where it meets the Grand Canal.

The Liffey winds through the north-eastern parts; and the Boyne rises in the Bog of Allen. The minor streams are very numerous; and the Grand Canal penetrates the dreary plains of Allen, communicating its advantages to the central parts of the county.

Few minerals have been discovered in this district. Copper

is found in the Murry, or Red, Hills near Kildare ; and the county contains marbles of different colours, which are susceptible of a high polish. There are several manufactories of cotton, and one establishment for the manufacture of woollen cloth ; but the chief reliance of the inhabitants is on agriculture and grazing. The farms are often large, but the modes of husbandry are, in too many instances, by no means conspicuous for excellence. A correct idea of the aspect of an ordinary farming establishment in this county, may be acquired from the following remarks by Mr. Rawson. "The farm-houses in general consist of a long thatched building of one story, containing a large kitchen and fire-place in the centre, and lodging rooms at either end. The front-door looks to the barns and stables at the right, behind which is the haggard, and on the left side are placed the cow and bullock houses. In the centre of the front yard are the dunghills ; and the pig-troughs are near to the front door. The tenant constantly executes all buildings and repairs." The fields into which the farms are divided are usually small, and in the uplands are sometimes divided by quick-set hedges, but more frequently by dykes, mounds of earth, or walls.

The poor, except on certain favoured spots, inhabit cabins of the most wretched description ; but the condition of this numerous class, in regard to an honest emulation in dress and personal appearance, was much improved when Mr. Rawson printed his remarks on this county, and continues to experience a progressive amelioration. That writer presents the following observations on the state of the peasantry in this county.—"Oatmeal, potatoes, eggs, herrings, with some milk and butter, constitute the food of the lower orders ; their fuel is turf ; their clothing a home-made frize coat, cotton waistcoat, and corderoy breeches, yarn stockings and brogues for every day : for the unmarried, white stockings and shoes for Sundays and holydays. Even in the dog-days, Pat sweats under a heavy frize coat, and if he had three coats, &c. he would mount them all.—The appearance of the women is much bettered ; within these twenty years they were ragged and barefoot ; even on Sunday, if a girl appeared so well

dressed as to have shoes and white stockings, she was pointed at; now no country girl is seen without them."

The English language is very generally spoken. In noticing the manners of the inhabitants, the author last cited observes, that "the customs of gossipred and fosterage are in the greatest force. Gossips will fight most fiercely for each other; in all conversations they call each other by the endearing name; not to have gossips to stand for children, when baptized, would cast much reflection on the parents."

That this district was amply populated at a very remote date, is proved by the great number of raths, or earthworks, still to be seen. In after-times, during the wars of the pale, and the contentions between powerful families of English descent, Kildare was often the scene of sanguinary encounters; and the remains of military and ecclesiastical structures, connected with the history of those periods, enrich several parts of the county.

Ptolemy places the *Cauci* in this tract of country. In regard to its occupants at periods less remote, we may observe that Kildare comprised a portion of the antient *Faile*, or *Offaly*; especially in its south and south-west parts. The north and north-east divisions belonged to *Hy-Cualan*, and to *Meath*. The antient proprietors of the first were *O'Conor-Faile*; *O'More*; and *O'Dunne*; and of the last-mentioned division a branch of the *O'Kellys*; *O'Callan*, Lord of *Naas*; and *O'Melaghlin*. On the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, *Earl Strongbow*, in right of his wife, became lord paramount, or palatine, of Kildare; which dignity, after *Strongbow's* death, descended to his son-in-law, *William the marshal*, *Earl of Pembroke*. This latter nobleman subdivided the freehold of this county amongst his relations and knights, without encroaching, however, on those parts of *O'Melaghlin's* territory which *Henry II.* had bestowed on *De Lacy*. To *William Fitzgerald* he granted *O'Callan's* lordship of *Naas*, driving the old proprietor into *Ulster*. The remainder of the county he divided between *De Hereford*; *Myler Fitzheary*; *De Phepo*; *De Pippard*; *D'Angelo* (otherwise *Nangle*;) and

De Bermingham. Some particulars concerning the further transmissions, and the descent of, property in this county, will most desirably be given in our notice of respective towns and estates.

In the unhappy intestine wars of the 17th century, and in the troubles of the year 1798, Kildare largely participated.

Although in many parts flat, and greatly disfigured by so wide an extent of bog as that which pervades its western divisions, the eastern and middle districts of this county are pleasant, and are ornamented with numerous seats of nobility and gentry. His Grace the Duke of Leinster is the principal landed proprietor. Among other possessors of considerable estates, may be mentioned the Marquess of Drogheda; the Earl of Aldborough; the Earl of Mayo; Lord Cloncurry; Sir Gerald Aylmer, Bart; and Robert La Touche, Esq.

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY OF KILDARE.

The number of houses and inhabitants, according to the returns made in obedience to the act of 1812, was as follows :

Baronies, Half Baronies, or Parishes.	Number of Houses.	Gross Population.
Carbury,	1,472	8,940
Claine,	1,054	6,470
Connell, Great,	1,029	6,216
Ikeathy and Oughterany,	950	5,616
Killcullen,	520	2,778
Naas, North,	1,040	6,048
Naas, South,	654	3,753
Moone and Kilkea,	1,483	9,077
Narragh and Rheban, West, ..	1,051	5,622
Narragh and Rheban, East, ..	1,089	6,318
Ophaley, East,	1,144	6,253
Ophaley, West,	1,522	7,674
Salt, North,	995	6,903
Salt, South,	561	3,465
TOTAL....	14,564	85,133

According to the returns obtained in the year 1821, the total number of houses in this county was, at that time, 15,875; and the total number of inhabitants 101,715. Thus, on the authority of these returns, the increase of inhabitants between the two above-named periods, must be stated as 16,562.

KILDARE,

Now a small and poor town, possessing few attractions for the traveller not imbued with a love of antiquarian inquiry, is boldly seated on elevated ground; and its ecclesiastical ruins, amongst which a round tower rises in aspiring grandeur, indicate to the approaching visiter a degree of importance, for the reality of which he seeks in vain on a closer inspection. The domestic buildings are chiefly of a humble description; the town has little trade; and the whole interest of the place depends on the relics of past ages, and the historical events connected with those vestiges.

The reputation of St. Brigid, and the religious institutions established by that celebrated saint, first raised Kildare to its ancient eminence in the list of cities. St. Brigid, whose birth is placed in the year 453, is said to have been the illegitimate daughter of an Irish chieftain, and to have received the veil in the fourteenth year of her age, from the hands of St. Patrick himself, or from one of his immediate disciples. She founded here a nunnery; and the foundation of an abbey speedily succeeded. A bishopric was shortly after erected, and other religious foundations subsequently took place. Before entering on a distinct notice of these institutions, it may be desirable to present a brief survey of the annals of the town which arose under their auspices.

The existence of revered and distinguished monastic institutions, and the circumstance of this place being constituted the *see of a bishop*, naturally led to the construction of a populous town. But the rich offerings made by the pious to altars of celebrity, and the valuable articles of personal property repositied, on the appearance of public danger, in sacred buildings of high repute, uniformly exposed the inhabitants of such a town to evils more than commensurate with their advantages, in ages when the

sword was too potent for the law. These penalties were fatally experienced by the town of Kildare, in instances so reiterated and similar, as scarcely to demand individual notice, in any other than a work of elaborate topography. The horrors of conflagration, after acts of rapine and murder, inflicted by the Danes, were so often repeated throughout the 9th, the 10th, and the early part of the 11th centuries, that humanity sickens over the recital.* Whilst the tenure was so precarious, it will be readily supposed that little provision for durability was made in constructing domestic buildings. To that cause, if the habits of the times do not in themselves afford a sufficient explanation of the circumstance, may be attributed the frequent destruction of the town by accidental fire, in the above disastrous ages.

Shortly after the entry of the English, in the 12th century, Kildare received the important addition of a castle, under the protection of which building the town, for some time, attained a greater degree of security than it had before experienced. A new monastery was likewise founded by the Norman lords into whose possession the town now passed; and, whilst the place assumed a warlike character, it maintained its antient reputation for sanctity of religious institutions. Long periods of tranquillity were not, however, permitted, even to the powerful, whilst the country was divided into various rival interests, and the sceptre swayed with a weak or careless hand. In 1294, the town and castle were reduced by the Irish, under Calbhach O'Connor; but the prosperity of the place soon revived; and, in the year 1309, a parliament was held here. So great were the severities inflicted during the disturbances of Queen Elizabeth's reign, that the town was in a state of ruin in the year 1600, and destitute of inhabi-

* If annals usually accepted as authority, be, as we believe, entitled to confidence, in regard to the dates of such occurrences, Kildare was not free for one age, between the years 833, and 1016, from the predatory visitations of the Danes, whose ravages equally involved in ruin the monasteries and the town. How can we suppose that the lofty and well executed round tower, at this place, was erected by this marauding people between the same years?

tants. Kildare never entirely recovered from the calamities of that era; but the castle was repaired, and garrisoned, in the civil wars of the 17th century, at which time this place again became the scene of military contest. It was not, as we believe, at any period the assize town of the county. It is supposed that the present town occupies a site more towards the east, than ancient Kildare. This town was constituted a borough in the reign of James I; and is governed by a sovereign, two portreeves, and a town clerk. Kildare is still the see of a bishop, and gives the title of Marquess and Earl to his Grace the Duke of Leinster.

The *Nunnery* established here by St. Brigid, is said to have been founded before the year 484, and the foundation of the *Abbey* took place nearly at the same time. The inmates of both were placed under the same roof, but were "separated," writes Archdall, "by walls. The nuns and monks had but one church, in common, which they entered at different doors. St. Brigid presided as well over the monks as the nuns; and, strange to tell! the abbot of this house was subject to the abbess for several years after the death of the celebrated founder, which happened in the year 523, on the first of February, when her feast is celebrated. She was interred here, but her remains were afterwards removed to the cathedral church of Down."*

The nuns of this convent were celebrated as the guardians of an *inextinguishable fire*, so termed, observes the fabulous Giraldus Cambrensis, writing in the 12th century, "because the nuns and religious women are so careful and diligent in supplying and recruiting it with fuel, that, from the time of St. Brigid, it hath remained always unextinguished, through so many successions of years; and, though so vast a quantity of wood hath been in such a length of time consumed in it, yet the ashes have never increased!" This fire was, however, extinguished by order of Henry de Loundres, Archbishop of Dublin, in the year 1230. When the influence of that prelate ceased to operate, the fire was

* Mon. Hib. p. 323.—It will be recollected that monks and nuns were not permitted to inhabit buildings immediately contiguous, in any other than convents under the rules of St. Brigid or St. Gilbert.

again kindled, and it continued in repute until the suppression of monasteries in the time of Henry VIII. "Perhaps," writes Sir James Ware, "the archbishop put out this fire, because the custom not being used in other places, it might seem to have taken its original from an imitation of the Vestal Virgins, whom Numa Pompilius first instituted, and dedicated to the holy mysteries of Vesta, for the preservation of a perpetual fire." That the custom had a pagan original is unquestionable. Vestiges of the adoration of the element of fire, amongst the antient Irish, (as we have explained more fully in our introductory pages) are still perceptible in the festival of *Beltein*, in which a relic of ceremonials is preserved long after the primitive incitement and design are forgotten. In adapting this sacred custom of heathen times to Christian ages, we are told, by Ware, that the successors of St. Brigid "pretended that the fire was preserved for the benefit of the poor and strangers." A small part of the Chapel of St. Brigid (locally termed the *Fire House*) in which this ceaseless fire was maintained, is still existing near the pillar tower. It was a low and narrow cell of stone, of considerable, but unknown, antiquity.

The religious house founded by St. Brigid was doomed, as we have already suggested, to experience numerous acts of rapine from the Danes, attended with circumstances of most barbarous atrocity. It also suffered, in early ages, from the repeated assaults of native hands. But the high reputation of its inmates, and the consequent benefactions of many affluent and distinguished individuals, enabled it to revive, often with added lustre, from these calamities; and, amidst all its vicissitudes of fortune, it remained in great public esteem until the dissolution in the 16th century.

Some copious materials towards the history of this monastery have been collected by Mr. Archdall, amongst which are the following entries, under the annals of respective years. A.D. 520, died St. Naithfraich, who was the first abbot of Kildare, and is said to have been *coachman* to St. Brigid! A.D. 523, died St. Blatha, or Flora, *cook* to St. Brigid! A.D. 638, "Aid Dubh, or Black Hugh, King of Leinster, abdicated his

throne, and took on him the Augustine habit in this Abbey. He was afterwards chosen abbot and bishop of Kildare." A. D. 907, "In this year Cormac, the learned Archbishop of Cashel, and King of Munster, did bequeath his horse to this abbey, with its splendid furniture, one ounce of gold, and an embroidered vestment." A. D. 1135, "In this year Diarmoid M'Murrough, King of Leinster, forcibly took the abbess out of her cloister, and at the same time compelled her to marry one of his own people. It is said no less a number than 170 inhabitants of the town and abbey were destroyed, during the commission of this unprecedented act." In the 34th year of King Henry VIII. the buildings and estates of this institution were granted to Anthony Deeringe, at the annual rent of £3 : 10 : 8. Irish money.

On the south side of the town stood a monastery for friars of the Franciscan order, commonly called *Gray Abbey*. This religious house, according to Archdall, was partly erected in the year 1260, by Lord William de Vesey, the buildings being completed by Gerald Fitzmaurice, Lord Offaley. The latter nobleman was buried here in 1286. The interment of the following distinguished persons in the church of this friary, is also noticed by Mr Archdall. Peter, Lord de Bermingham, 1398. John Fitz-Thomas, first Earl of Kildare, 1316.* Thomas Fitz-John, second Earl of Kildare, 1328.—Richard, third Earl of Kildare, 1329.—Gerald, Earl of Kildare, 1410.—On the dissolution of religious houses this monastery, and its appurtenances, were granted *in capite*, together with the house of the White Friars, to Daniel Sutton, at the annual rent of 2s. 3d. Irish money.

A monastery for Carmelites, or *White Friars*, was founded here by the de Vesey family, in the year 1290. Few records are preserved concerning this friary.

The *Cathedral* of Kildare has long been in a ruinous state, with the exception of the choir, which is of small dimensions, and is destitute of architectural interest. We are told by Mr. Harris, under the article "Bishops of Kildare," in the works of

* For some doubts as to the correctness of Mr. Archdall, in regard to the interment of this earl, see our account of *Maynooth*.

Sir J. Ware, enlarged by that writer, that this cathedral was repaired and adorned, "at no small charge," by Ralph of Bristol, who sat in this see from 1223 to 1232. According to the same authority, the buildings again fell to decay in the reign of Henry VII. at which time they were repaired, under the auspices of Bishop Lane. The progress of their subsequent dilapidation is not accurately stated, but it appears that the final blow of ruin was inflicted during the civil wars of the 17th century. The walls of the nave are still standing, and exhibit arches, and other traces of architecture, in a simple and unornamented modification of the pointed style. The north side of the tower, which rose between the nave and choir, is levelled with the ground, and is said to have been beaten down by a battery, placed against it in the rebellion of 1641. The south transept yet remains; but in a state of ruin. The choir, which, as we before remarked, affords no gratification in an architectural point of view, has been much altered at different times, and acts as the parochial church.

Within the walls of this structure is the sepulchral vault of the Earls of Kildare, but these illustrious dead are now destitute of any monumental record. The late respected William-Robert, Duke of Leinster and Marquess of Kildare, father of the present duke, was interred here, with much funeral pomp, in October, 1805.

In the church-yard is the lofty pedestal of a stone cross, the shaft of which, as we are told by Harris, was converted into a step, leading to the communion table. Immured in the walls are numerous fragments of sculptured monuments, chiefly of marble, removed from the interior of the church. These comprise some pieces deserving to be noticed for merit of execution, amongst which may be mentioned the following subjects:—Christ represented on the cross, angels embracing him; Christ rising from the tomb, which a soldier guards; Justice trampling on the devil, who vainly strives to turn the balance of the scales. At the distance of about thirty yards from the west end of the cathedral, and in the contiguity of St. Brigid's Chapel (or the Fire-house) stands a stately object, one of the finest pillar-towers

in Ireland. This round tower is said to be 132 feet in height, thus exceeding in elevation, by three feet, Trajan's column at Rome. The entrance is by a circular arch, fourteen feet from the ground. At the top is now seen a "gothic" battlement.*

The *bishopric of Kildare* is said to have been founded, with the assistance of St. Brigid, by St. Conlæth, who became the first bishop. St. Conlæth died on the third of May, 519; and, according to his biographers, was buried near the high altar of his own church; but his bones, 281 years afterwards, were "translated into a silver gilded shrine, adorned with precious stones."

Concerning the annals of this diocese, for many ages after the death of St. Conlæth, no researches, hitherto made, have discovered any more useful intelligence than fugitive hints, which, however keenly pursued, yield no information of solid value, in the esteem of the ecclesiastical antiquary. We present a list of the prelates who have filled the see of Kildare, from the latter part of the twelfth century to the present time :

BISHOPS OF KILDARE.

	OB.
Malachy O'Birn.....	1176
.....	Succ.
Nehemiah	1177
Cornelius Mac Gelan, often called Cornelius of Cloncurry	1206

* This battlement we ascertain to be a modern addition, from the following passage in Ware's works enlarged by Harris, vol. ii. p. 128. "The tower of Kildare having been *pointed and repaired* within these few years, had then a regular neat battlement raised on it, which before was only an irregular broken wall, as appears by the scheme given thereof by Sir Thomas Molyneux, and which I myself very well remember." From this remark we are authorized in believing that considerable freedoms have been taken, at various times, in making additions to many of these curious fabrics; and it is highly probable that such *improvements* involve those decorative particulars in the pointed style, and sculptural ornaments, which are, in some instances, to be witnessed.

	Succ.
Ralph of Bristol *	1223
John of Taunton	1233
Simon of Kilkenny.....	1258

See Vacant for seven years.

Nicholas Cusack.....	1279
Walter le Veele	1299
Richard Hulot	1334
Thomas Giffard	1353

See Vacant about one year.

Robert of Aketon †	1366
Henry of Wessenberch	1401
John Madock	1405
William	1432
Geoffry Hereford	1449
Richard Lang	1464
David	1474
James Wale	1475
William Barret (<i>date of succ. unknown</i>)	
Edmund Lane †	1482
Thomas Dillon	1523
Walter Wellesley	1531
William Miagh	1540

* This prelate is said by Harris, to "have been at great expense in repairing and beautifying his cathedral."

† A considerable degree of obscurity prevails in the diocesan annals at this period. Robert of Aketon is said to have been succeeded by a bishop George, who died in 1401. Between Henry of Wessenberch and the ensuing prelate in our list, it is also said there occurred a bishop Thomas, who died in 1405.

‡ This bishop, as is observed by Ware and Harris, "founded a College at Kildare, in which the dean and chapter might live after a collegiate manner. It is recorded in the registry of Archbishop Alan, that Lane sat in this see upwards of forty years. From whence it is evident that Wale and Barret were, for a long time, bishops without a sec. For though a bishop resigns, yet he holds the title."

See Vacant one year and seven months.

	Succ.
Thomas Lancaster	1550
Thomas Leverous *	1554

See Vacant one year and five months.

Alexander Craik †	1560
Robert Daly	1564
Daniel Neylan	1583
William Pilsworth	1604
Robert Usher ‡	1635
William Golbourn	1644
Thomas Price	1660
Ambrose Jones	1667
Anthony Dopping	1678
William Moreton	1691
Welbore Ellis	1705
Charles Cobb	1731
George Stone	1743
Thomas Fletcher	1745
Richard Robinson	1761
Charles Jackson	1765
George L. Jones	1790
Charles Lindsay	1804

The bishopric of Kildare extends to the length of thirty-six miles, and is, in its broadest part, twenty-three miles in width. The number of parishes within its limits are eighty-one : namely,

* Bishop Leverous was thrust from his see by the contentions of violent parties (as also had been his predecessor) and supported himself for some time by keeping a school at Limerick. He died at Naas, in the 80th year of his age.

† This prelate will long be unpleasantly remembered for the irreparable injuries he committed towards the ancient see of Kildare, by exchanging the principal estates of the bishopric, with Patrick Sarsfield, for some tithes of small value. Further alienations of the episcopal property were made by William Pilsworth, promoted to this see in 1604.

‡ Son of Henry Usher, primate of all Ireland.

fifty-six in the county of Kildare ; eighteen in the King's County ; and seven in the Queen's County.

The chapter consists of a dean ; precentor ; chancellor ; treasurer, and four canons. The archdeacon is not a member of the chapter, but has a seat in the choir, and a voice in the election of the dean only ; as have, also, the seven prebendaries of this cathedral. The Bishop of Kildare, who has not any episcopal residence, holds the deanery of Christ Church, Dublin, in *commendam* with his bishopric ; which union has prevailed since the year 1681. He also ranks as second, amongst the suffragans, to the Bishop of Meath ; the rest taking their seats according to the date of ordination.*

As a *native* of this town, may be mentioned *David O'Buge*, provincial of the Carmelite order in Ireland, who died, and was interred at Kildare, in the monastery of his own order, where he had formerly been a friar. He was one of the most distinguished scholars of his æra, and is thus described by Bale, after the epistles of John Bloxam: "O'Buge was a philosopher, rhetorician, and divine ; and the most learned in all that country" (Ireland), "both in the civil and canon laws ; and as such was by many called the lamp, the mirror, and the ornament of all the Irish nation." A list of his works is given in Sir James Ware's "Writers of Ireland." He flourished in the early part of the fourteenth century.

* This practice "obtained in several Parliaments, viz. in those of the twenty-seventh of Queen Elizabeth, and eleventh of James the first. It was controverted before the Privy Council, March the 15th, 1639. But the Lords-justices, and Council did not think proper to adjudge the right, in regard the Parliament was to assemble the day following, and that they had not time to enter into the merits on either side. Yet, to avoid the scandal and disturbance which might arise from a contention in the house, they made an interim order, that the Bishop of Kildare, without prejudice to the rights of the other Bishops, should be continued in the possession of precedence next after the Bishop of Meath, and before all other Bishops, although consecrated before him ; and that he should take place accordingly, until the same be evicted from him upon the discussion of the right." Ware's Bishops, p. 380.

In the vicinity of Kildare is *the Curragh*, a fine undulating down, comprehending nearly five thousand acres of land. This plain has been long celebrated as the principal race-ground of Ireland, and is said, in elasticity of turf, and other circumstances favourable to racing, to be at least equal to the plains of Newmarket. The gift from government of two annual plates of 100*l.* each was procured through the suggestion of Sir William Temple, with a view of improving the breed of Irish horses.

His Majesty, King George IV. attended a "Curragh-meeting" in the year 1821;—an event that will long be remembered, with much pride and gratification, in the annals of the Irish turf.

On this plain are still to be seen numerous earthen works, most of which appear to have been sepulchral. Engravings of several of these vestiges are inserted in the fourth volume of Gough's edition of the *Britannia*; in which work it is observed that "on the longridge of the Curragh is a chain of fourteen small raths, or circular intrenchments, without any ramparts, in a line nearly east and west, and about three miles in length."* Many fantastic traditions, or legends, have long prevailed concerning a stupendous heathen monument, or "round row of huge stones," which once existed on this plain. From the writings of Giraldus it would even appear that some relics of the structure were to be seen, in the twelfth century. The assertion of such a traveller is, however, of little account. Whatever may have been the fact when Giraldus wrote, not the slightest traces of such a work

* In the same work it is observed, that, on the western extremity of this ridge, is a large circular dun, or rath, near which is a small tumulus, with a cavity at top. "This," continues the writer "seems to have been what the Irish denominated a *cuct*, or kitchen, being the place where they dressed their victuals, which was done by lighting a fire in the cavity, round which was a number of stakes, suspending on the top the skin of a cow, or some other animal, filled with water, in which was put the flesh to be boiled, after the manner of the antient Scots. A number of these hollow, or crater mounds, are found in various parts of the kingdom. They are denominated by the Irish *cuct* (pronounced *koocky*) or kitchens; but by the English settlers *brandrets*, or fire-hearths." *Britannia*, &c. edited by Gough, vol. iv. p. 238.

are now to be discovered. Many towers, forming the harsh remains of defensible dwellings, chiefly built by the Fitzgeralds, are spread over this part of the country. After viewing these, the eye is agreeably relieved by the numerous villas, and sporting lodges, raised in modern times, in the vicinity of the Carragh, by noblemen and gentry attached to the pleasures of the turf.

Several military conflicts have taken place on the Carragh of Kildare. One of the most distinguished occurred in 1234, at which time Richard Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, and Earl-Palatine of Leinster, then in rebellion, was slain in battle by the Viceroy, Lord Geoffrey de Montemarisco, aided by Fitzger De Lacy, and De Burgh.

MONASTEREVAN is a neat, but not large, town, situated on the river Barrow, and likewise on the Grand Canal, at the distance of thirty miles from the Irish metropolis; thus appearing to occupy a beneficial site for traffic on the great water-line of thoroughfare from Dublin to the south of Ireland. There are in this neighbourhood several docks and storehouses, with other preparations for commercial interchange; but, with the exception of a small distillery of some importance, the chief trading profits of Monasterevan are derived from the outlay of travellers at its numerous inns. Over the river Barrow, which is here a shallow stream, is a bridge of five arches, called the *Pass Bridge*; and there are, also, three bridges thrown over the Grand Canal, and several cuts from that navigable water.

The antient importance of this town was derived from its monastic foundation; and the mansion raised on the site of the old structure is, at present, the chief ornament of the place. The abbey of Monasterevan is said to have been founded by St. Dubricius, but the antient foundation having fallen into decay, the O'Dempsey and O'Connor refounded this religious institution in the latter part of the twelfth century. When the monasteries of this country were dissolved, the abbey and manor of Monasterevan were granted to George, Lord Audley, by whom they were afterwards assigned to Adam Loftus, Viscount Ely. The estate subsequently passed, by a marriage, into the Moore family, and noble

and now represented by Charles Moore, Marquess of Drogheda. On the site of the monastic buildings a spacious mansion has been erected by this noble family, which is denominated *Moore Abbey*. The house was greatly repaired and improved by the late Marquess, about the year 1767, but has been falsely described as retaining in its general appearance a monastic aspect. It is, in fact, an extensive and commodious pile, quite destitute of all strongly-marked architectural character. A taste for adapting the style of antiquity to modern uses was, indeed, unknown in Ireland when this fabric was raised. The great hall, lined with Irish oak, is worthy of notice, as having been the apartment in which Loftus, Viscount Ely, held the court of chancery, in the troubled year 1641.

The attached demesne is very large, and affords some fine varieties of scenery. The country, in the neighbourhood of Monasterevan, ascends from the flat and boggy character of the district between that place and Dublin, and gradually undulates into gentle and well-wooded hills. Considering that so many spots, really beautiful, were contiguous, it is much to be regretted that Moore Abbey, when rebuilt, as a domestic structure for the dignified retirement of a noble family, was not erected on a more eligible site. Its antient and present situation is low, watery, and destitute of prospect. Indeed it may be remarked that, in most instances, the antient monastic buildings of Ireland were placed on a dreary and forbidding site, near to a tract eminent for natural beauty; as if, in such a choice of situation, the early saints had laboured to impress on their disciples a lesson of self-denial and mortification.

ARRY (pronounced *Aikhy*) is situated on the south-western border of the county, at the distance of 32 miles from Dublin. This is, jointly with Naas, the assize town for the county of Kildare; and, although now decayed, was formerly a place of considerable importance. Its declining state is lamentably contrasted with local circumstances peculiarly favourable to its prosperity. The surrounding country is well adapted to tillage. The Grand Canal, and great southern road to Cork, connect it with

the metropolis ; and the river Barrow, on which it is seated, is navigable to the opulent trading port of Waterford. These advantages, however, have proved insufficient to retard the decay of a town, unquestionably of high reputation at an early period of national history.

Athy, as we are told by Seward, is built in the contiguity of an antient ford, " leading from the principality of Leix to that of Cellaagh, or Caellan ;" and it is said by Keating that a battle was fought here, " in the second or third century, between the people of Munster and those of Leix." This place became, at an early period of the English ascendancy, formidable as a frontier-town of *the Pale* ; and monastic foundations, as usual in the middle ages, accompanied the clamour of warfare and the rude dignity of military residence. In 1308, this town was burned by the Irish ; and in 1315, it was plundered by the Scots, under Edward Bruce. In 1648, it was possessed by the Irish under O'Neil ; but was taken, for the parliament, in 1650, by Colonels Hewson and Reynolds.

A castle was constructed here by Gerald, eighth Earl of Kildare, about the year 1506. Of this building, which stood at the foot of the bridge, a massy tower still remains, now used as a prison. Two monasteries were erected at Athy in earlier ages. The *Crouched Friary* was founded in the reign of John, by Richard de St. Michael, Lord of Rheban. Of this religious house, which stood on the west side of the river, some small vestiges are still to be seen. A *Dominican Friary* was founded on the east side of the bridge, by the families of Boysel and Hogan, in the year 1253. Both of the above institutions flourished until the dissolution, in the time of Henry VIII. ; but no particulars of importance are preserved concerning their history. Here are a county court-house ; barracks ; and a free-school. Athy was incorporated by James I. in 1515 ; and is internally governed by a sovereign, two bailiffs, and a town-clerk.

In the vicinity of Athy is *Woodstock Castle*, first erected by Richard de St. Michael, Lord of Rheban, noticed above as the founder of the Crouched friary. This castle, together with the

manors of Woodstock and Rheban, passed, by a marriage, to Thomas, seventh Earl of Kildare, early in the 15th century.

At the distance of three miles from the same town, towards the north, the high road winds round *the Mount of Ascal*, memorable as the scene of a sanguinary conflict, in 1315, between the invading Scots, under Edward Bruce, brother to Robert, King of Scotland, and the English forces, commanded by Sir Hamon le Gras, in which the latter army was overthrown, with the loss of its gallant leader, who was buried in the Dominican Abbey of Athy :

“ On Ascal’s plains was heard the sound of woe ;
And, as the gentle Barrow glided by,
All blood-tinged were its waters in their flow,
Where herbes died—but not for victory.”

Poem of Jerpoint Abbey.

KILKEA* Castle, a large and fine, but irregular pile of castellated building, is distant from Castledermott one mile and a half. A castle on this site was first erected by Hugh de Lacy the younger, Earl of Ulster, who obtained the barony of Kilkea by a marriage with Emmelina, daughter of the Lord de Riddlesford. The property afterwards passed into the Kildare family, by whom the castle has been re-edified at different times. This fortified residence was a place of some distinction in the 14th century. Sir Thomas Rokeby, Lord Justice of Ireland, died here, in the year 1356. The buildings were much enlarged and improved by John, sixth Earl of Kildare, who died in 1427. Considerable alterations and repairs have taken place at subsequent periods ; the most recent of which were effected by the late Daniel Caulfield, of Levitstown, Esq. who obtained a lease of these premises from the Duke of Leinster.

The interior presents, in many parts, curious examples of ancient arrangement : and from several of the windows are obtained fine views, embracing, among other objects, the demesne of Lord Aldborough, the banks of the river Greece, and the mountains of the Queen’s County. The staircase is composed of

* “ At Kilkea—A little town there was of old,
“ Thatched with good straw, to keep out cold.”

Cott. Virg. Trav.

massy oak. Connected with the chimney-piece in the great drawing-room are some antient basso-relieues, of much curiosity. On the right side of the fire-place is represented an ape, the crest of the Fitzgeralds, beneath which is the following inscription :

Si Dieu plet.

Crom— aboo.

MDLXXIII.

On the left side is an eagle with expanded wings, resting on a perch. This, as we are informed by the MSS. of the Chev. de Montmorency, is the crest of Mabel, second daughter of Sir Anthony Browne, master of the horse to King Edward VI. sister to Anthony Viscount Montacute, and wife of Gerald, eleventh Earl of Kildare.

Inserted in the Gate-house of this castle, is a stone, sculptured in a singular and grotesque manner. The sculpture represents a monster, having the head of a fox, the claws of a dragon, and the legs of a man. The monster is prostrate, and over it is a female figure, nurturing at the breast an eagle. The monster presses her to him with his claws, and a dog behind appears to hold, or to bite her.—Near the castle is a large conical mount, in recent years covered with trees.

CASTLEDERMOTT, situated in the southern part of the county, at the distance of thirty-four miles from Dublin, is a straggling and humble, but not an offensively mean, town. This place was long called *Tristledermott*, and was formerly surrounded by a wall, now demolished. An abbey was founded here by St. Diermit, about the year 500 ; in which religious house Cormac, Archbishop of Cashell, received education. According to Keating, that celebrated prelate and king was also interred at this place. Previous to the entry of the Anglo-Normans, *Tristledermott* was the chief seat of the O'Tools.* In the year 842, or 844,

* Seward, and other topographers copying that writer, erroneously assert that " this town was formerly the residence of the kings who bore the name of Dermot." The customary residence of the Kings of Leinster, bearing that name, was at Dublin. When unable to maintain themselves in that city, they retired to Ferns.—De Montmorency MSS.

this town was plundered by the Danes. Earl Strongbow bestowed this, together with other parts of the antient possessions of O'Tool, on Walter de Riddlesford, by whom a castle was built here, in the year 1180.*

During those family quarrels between the Burkes and Geraldines, which caused so much bloodshed in various parts of Ireland, a meeting, for the discussion of differences, was appointed at Castledermott, A. D. 1264. But, instead of an amicable result, a fresh and violent outrage occurred. Richard de Rapella, Lord Justice of Ireland, Lord Theobald Butler, and other persons of distinction, were seized by Maurice Fitzgerald and his party, and sent, as prisoners, to the castle of Ley. In 1316, the town was taken and ravaged by Bruce, the Scottish invader of Ireland; but the forces of that enterprising leader were, shortly afterwards, defeated, with much slaughter, in this neighbourhood, by Lord Edmund Butler. On the 26th of August, 1499, a parliament was held at this place, memorable for some important acts, and several curious regulations.†

* Several writers maintain that the castle at this place was built by the third Lord Offally, who, as they say, "married the daughter and heir of Riddlesford." Both of these assertions we believe to be founded on error, and the latter is decidedly a mistake. Gerald Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald, third Lord Offally, did not marry the daughter and heir of Walter de Riddlesford, as is said by Archdall, *Peerage*, vol. i, p. 63, *note*. The wife of this nobleman was Emmelina, daughter and heir of Geoffrey Fitzgeoffrey de Montmorency, Lord De Marisco, who, between the 9th and 12th of Edw. II. accempted with Theobald Le Poer, sheriff of Waterford, for his knight's service for Castledermott. Maurice Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald, youngest brother of the above-mentioned Gerald Lord Offally, espoused Emma, daughter of the Viceroy Geoffrey de Montmorency, by his wife Christiana de Riddlesford, by whom he had a son, who died without issue, and a daughter, who became the wife of Lord Thomas de Clare, youngest son to the Earl of Gloucester. It appears that Lord Offally, by this union with the daughter and heir of Geoffrey Fitzgeoffrey de Montmorency, brought to his house the great domain of Castledermott, &c. which still belongs to his descendant, the Duke of Leinster.—Genealogical Mems. of the House of Montmorency, and MS. communication of the author of that work.

† In this assemblage of the states, it was found expedient to enact that

When Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, committed numerous rebellious actions, in 1539, this town was visited by his insurgent arms. He entered the place while the inhabitants were holding a fair, destroyed many of the assembled persons; and caused numerous houses to be consumed with fire. The catalogue of evils to which Castledermott has been exposed by the operations of war, terminates with the horrors of the 17th century. In the troubles of that time, the town was taken (*anno* 1650) by Colonels Reynolds and Hewson; since which date it has never reassumed an aspect of importance, but has lain prostrate—its monastic structures rent and scattered by the zeal of reformation, its walls and towers levelled, or dismantled, by party-war.

The *Parochial Church* and its precincts present several objects worthy of attentive notice. This structure was formerly of considerable extent, but the western part is now in a state of ruin. The great western door-case is still remaining, and is of a semi-circular form, the sweep of the arch being ornamented with dentils. The eastern division of the church is used for divine service, and exhibits several arches of dissimilar forms, but destitute of architectual embellishment.

On the north side of the church is a round, or pillar tower, now used as a belfry. This structure is composed of large round blocks of Wicklow stone, with much cement. The antient entrance is square-headed. On the east is a window, and on the north-west a loop-hole. At the height of about ten feet from the ground the tower receives a coat of ivy, which covers it closely to the top, and imparts to it the appearance of a lofty tree. Between the tower and the church is a passage, about ten feet in length, communicating with a rude circular door-way, which formerly opened into the latter structure. In the adjacent burial-yard we find the fragments of a small stone-cross, and also a large cross in good preservation.*

the nobles of Ireland should use saddles, in riding on horseback (in opposition to the practice of the antient Irish), and should wear their robes in parliament.

* For the following account of the curious sculpture on the cross of

A *Priory of Crouched Friars* was founded here by Walter de Riddlesford, in the reign of King John, which stood on the outer side of the town-walls. After the dissolution, this priory and its appurtenances were granted to Sir Henry Harrington, Kat. Considerable remains of the buildings still exist, although great dilapidations have occurred, even within the last few years. The north transept is the part least injured by time; and is a good specimen of that modification of the pointed style which grew into use about the commencement of the 14th century. The nave was narrow, and divided from its aisles by three pointed arches on each side. One aisle still remains, and presents the stone-work of three windows, in a fine style of design and execution. The decay of this monastic pile is to be particularly regretted, as the vestiges still to be seen evince a greater degree of splendour, and delicacy of finish, than is customary with the minor ecclesiastical buildings of Ireland. Among several defaced monuments in the grass-grown interior of the priory, is one of a

Castledermott we are indebted to the MS. notes of the Chev. de Montmorency.—The *west side* is divided into seven compartments, the upper of which contains three human figures. The north cross-branch presents a man, sitting and playing on a harp, together with Adam and Eve, at either side of the tree. The south-cross branch displays a human figure, standing erect, with uplifted hands, and two beasts, one being on the back of the other. On the fifth compartment of the shaft is an erect human figure, having two beasts on each side. In the sixth and seventh compartments are three human figures. On the upper end of the *east side* are, also, three human figures. The east and west cross-branches each present three similar figures. The middle of the shaft, at top and between the cross-branches, is occupied by a large human figure, which would appear to represent Mercury, the head being covered by a flat hat with wings. This figure stretches out its hands to two smaller figures, which raise their diminutive heads from underneath its arms, as if in admiration or prayer. In other compartments are three upright human figures, and two similar figures supporting between them a *torse*, or truncated human object. Also two crowned figures, kneeling with joined and uplifted hands, in the attitude of prayer. The sides and base are ornamented with true-lovers' knots.—It may be observed that the bed of the stream which flows near to this church, and the adjoining tracts of land, abound in the species of stone of which this cross is composed.

gloomy and disgusting character, presenting the figures of a skeleton, and of a human body opened, with the interior revealed.

At some distance from the priory is a square and strong tower, often termed *St. John's Castle*.*

A *Monastery for Conventual Franciscans* was founded at Castledermott, by Thomas Lord Offalley, in the year 1302. This religious house was greatly injured, and its inmates deprived of their books, vestments, and ornaments, by the army under Bruce, in 1316. The ruins of the buildings now present a melancholy scene of desolation. Some architectural fragments, however, prove this monastery to have been a structure much superior to the buildings usually appertaining to the Franciscans, which are in general confined in limits and destitute of embellishment, wearing the characteristic features of a mendicant society. The east window, said to have been large, and of beautiful workmanship, was destroyed not many years back. A ball-court, a Catholic church, and a Protestant meeting-house, now occupy the chief parts of the ground on which the Convent formerly stood.

In the vicinity of Castledermott is a Charter School, designed for forty boys, which was the first institution of its kind in Ireland.

At GRANY, distant one mile and a half from the above town, are the ruins of a nunnery, founded by Lord Walter de Riddlesford, about the year 1200, for canonesses of the order of St. Augustin. At the dissolution this religious house, and its neighbouring lands, were granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Anthony St. Leger, K. G., whose descendants long possessed much property in the vicinity of Castledermott.—*Grangemelon*, a seat near Grany, was purchased of the Lyon family by Sir John St. Leger, one of the barons of the exchequer; whose son, the late John St. Leger, Esq. once resident here, was, in his day, the leader of fashion, and the inspiring genius of conviviality in Ireland, where his name (familiarized to *Jack St. Leger*) is still freshly remem-

* A local tradition ascribes to the Knights-templars the erection of the Priory for Crouched Friars.

bered by the sporting classes of society.*—Connected with this seat are some vestiges of days long past, which probably were of little interest in the esteem of the former gay proprietor of the demesne;—a gateway, and other ruins of a monastic pile, said to have belonged to the Knights-templars. This estate was purchased, a few years back, by Sir Erasmus Burroughs, Bart.

TIMOLIN is a small fair town, situated in the barony of Narragh. A monastery was founded here at an early period, and probably by *St. Moling*, of Ferns, who died in the 7th century.† No particulars have been ascertained concerning this monastery, subsequent to the year 927. A nunnery was also founded here, in the reign of John, by Robert Fitz-Richard, Lord of Neragh. A castle was erected at Timolin by the same person, which continued to form a military post of some consequence, down to a period of history comparatively recent. This castle was taken in the 17th century by the Marquess of Ormonde, and the garrison was put to the sword by order of the Lords Justices Parsons and Borlase, although commissioners, named by both the contending parties, were actually at the same time engaged in adjusting terms of peace!

Contiguous to Timolin is Moon, a neat and pleasing village. Here was a Franciscan friary, the brotherhood of which house

* Mr. St. Leger married, in 1754, Mary, only daughter of Colonel Thos. Butler, second son of Brinsley, first Viscount Lanesborough; by which lady he had issue two sons, both general officers, who died without children, and one daughter, now the wife, without children, of Count Adelfert de Talleyrand-Perigord.—Montmerency MSS.

† *Ty*, or *Tegh' Molin*, the House of Moling, which would appear to be the etymology of the name by which this place is known, strongly favours such a belief. The opinion gains fresh probability of correctness from information to the following effect, afforded by Friar Clynn. We are told by this chronicler, that, during the Easter Holidays, anno 1323, Philip O'Callan (to whom Timolin then belonged) his son, and many persons of his sept, were slain by Edmond le Botiller, rector of Tallow, and the Cantons; who afterwards set fire to O'Callan's church of Thamolyn, which they burnt to ashes, with the men, women, and children therein, not sparing the relics of *St. Molyng*.—MSS. of the Chev. de Montmerency.

retained their station at a date subsequent to the reformation. The church, which is now in ruins, was a long and narrow structure, re-edified in 1609. The most ancient monument, bearing a date, commemorates two persons of the *Brins* (Byrne) family, who died in 1624. Here is a fragment of a very ancient stone cross, which, in its original state, was, probably, one of the most curious erections of the kind in all Ireland. This relic is covered with a multitude of grotesque figures, some of which exhibit the most monstrous creations of fancy that we have witnessed. — A castle was built at this place, shortly after the year 1175, by the first Anglo-Norman settlers. Some remains of the castle of Moon are still habitable, and, together with an adjoining house, of modern construction, are occupied by the family of Yates. Near the church is an earthen elevation, or *moote*.

BEAAN HOUSE, the seat of the Earl of Aldborough, is distant from Timolin two miles. A castle formerly stood at this place, in which Pierce Fitzgerald resided in the early part of the 17th century. This castle was demolished by Cromwell; and the estate of Belan was purchased, from Lord Fitzharding, by Edward Stratford, Esq., ancestor of the present noble proprietor, in the latter part of the same century. Mr. Stratford had been involved in the troubles of James the Second's disastrous reign, but was instrumental in establishing the house of Orange on the throne, and it is recorded that he entertained at this place King William III. The present mansion was erected, after the designs (as we believe) of Bindon, the painter and architect, by John, the first Earl of Aldborough, about the year 1743. The house stands in a flat situation, at the foot of Bolton hill, and is a large but plain pile of building, not remarkable for the elegance or amplitude of its respective apartments. Although the exterior has little, in an architectural point of view, to arrest the attention, while even the best rooms are of a confined character, when compared with the real extent of the building, this is certainly, on the whole, a massy and commanding structure. But the examiner finds with surprise that, at the time of its erection, Belan was deemed the finest mansion in Ireland;

and this circumstance acts as a memorable proof of the increase of taste for embellished domestic architecture, within the last half century.

BALYTRE, a lovely village, seated on the little river Griss, or Greece, possesses no ordinary claim on the notice of the traveller and topographer, although it finds no place in the pages of antient history. This village is chiefly inhabited by the people termed Quakers, and is conspicuous for the neatness and regularity which characterize that moral and tranquil sect. Independent of the beauty that springs from simplicity, and is apparent in the whole arrangement of the village, Balytre will long be memorable for its school, where Edmund Burke received the early part of his education, under the care of the celebrated quaker Abraham Sheekelton. It will also be remembered, to the honour of this rural spot, that here was born Mary Leadbeter, daughter of Mr. Sheekelton, which lady was authoress of the "Cottage Dialogues," and other works calculated to improve the state of the Irish peasantry.

NARRAGHMORE, situated to the south-east of old Kilcullen, demands notice, as having given the title of a Baron-palatine to the Anglo-Norman family of De Wellesley, long seated here, and at Dangan castle, in the county of Meath. John Keatings, lord chief justice of the king's bench, and Maurice his brother, acquired this manor in the latter part of the seventeenth century; and the estate remained vested in the descendants of the latter gentleman until a recent period, at which time it was sold by Colonel Keating to Robert Latouche, Esq. The mansion was burned down by the king's troops, during an action with the insurgents in 1798; but a house of limited dimensions was afterwards erected on the site by Colonel Keating. The demesne presents a great variety of surface, and is enriched by extensive spreads of woodland. Near the house is a sepulchral chapel of the Wellesley family, a small and plain structure, now in ruins.

KILCULLEN, now termed OLD KILCULLEN, which imparts its name to a barony in this county, was formerly a walled town having seven gates, but is now in a state of ruin and neglect. A

monastery was founded here in a very early age; and we are informed, by authorities quoted in the *Monasticon Hibernicum*, that "St. Patrick appointed St. Isernin bishop, who died A. D. 469, and was succeeded by St. Macraline, son of Corcran, a disciple of St. Patrick." Little has been ascertained concerning the fortunes of this religious house after the year 1037, at which time it was exposed to plunder. Kilcullen, according to the regulations of 1115, was constituted the see of a bishop, but it does not appear that this dignity was of a lasting character.

The *Church* of Kilcullen was granted to the priory of the Holy Trinity, or Christchurch, Dublin, by William the Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, Isabella de Clare his wife, and Raymond Le Gros. In 1252, Henry de Penkoyle, for the sum of 100 shillings, released to John, prior of Christchurch, the advowson of this church, which was confirmed to the prior in 1312, by Philip de Penkoyle.*

Between the chancel and nave of the old church was, until recently, a very fine circular arch; but we regret to state that this curious vestige of antiquity is now destroyed. In the church is still preserved the effigies of a knight in mail, represented at full length, the right hand on his heart, the left hand on the guard of his sword: the helmet open. This figure was probably designed to commemorate one of the now extinct family of Penkoyle.

We here find the remains of two crosses, one of which still retains some very curious specimens of ancient sculpture. The shaft of this relic is ten feet in height, and the figures represented in the different compartments are very numerous, but generally of an unknown import. Among the least obscure there would appear to be figures of the twelve apostles; a bishop, holding his crosier in the left hand and an axe in the right, with a prostrate human figure at his feet; a man slaying a lion; and a man riding on a quadruped, appearing to be intended for an ass. Besides the above there are many grotesques, or hieroglyphics. It has been thought, and with probable correctness, that two of the

* It is observable that the town of Kilcullen (formerly written *Kilcolyn*) was for many ages termed Penkoyle, from the above named family, who were long its powerful owners.

above designs are intended to represent Balaam on the Ass, and David slaying the Lion.

In the church-yard is the ruin of a round, or pillar, tower. The height of this fragment does not exceed thirty-five feet. The door faces the north, and is distant about six and a half feet from the ground. Only one small window, or loop-hole, is now remaining.

The fair-green of Kilcullen was the scene of an action, on the 24th of May, 1798, between a detachment of the king's troops and a party of the insurgents, in which the former sustained a defeat. Captains Erskine and Cocksey fell in this engagement. Thomas Fitz Eustace (afterwards Viscount Baltinglass) was created Baron of Kilcullen by Henry VIII. in 1535.

KILCULLEN-BRIDGE is a village distant from the above town one mile and a half, towards the north-east. A bridge was erected here, over the Liffey, by Maurice Jakis, a canon of the church of Kildare, in 1319; from which period may justly be dated the decline and fall of the old town of Kilcullen.

NEW ABBEY, on the banks of the Liffey, at a small distance from the above place, was founded in the year 1460, by Sir Rowland Eustace, for Franciscans of the strict observance. After the dissolution of religious houses a lease of this abbey was granted (August 24th, 1582) to Edmund Spencer, the poet, at the yearly rent of 3*l.* Irish money. Some remains of the buildings are still to be seen, but the steeple fell to the ground about the year 1764, and a large part of the materials of the structure has been employed in the erection of a Roman Catholic chapel. The founder, Sir Rowland Eustace, died in 1496, and was here buried, as were his wife Margaret, and his daughter, Alison Lady Kildare. The monuments of those distinguished persons were standing entire until the havoc committed in the buildings for the use of the materials, as above noticed; and the upper parts of the monuments, together with the fragments of many other costly tombs of marble, mutilated and overgrown with weeds, may still be discovered among the neglected refuse of the monastic ruins. These vestiges present the effigies of a knight and lady, their hands joined in

prayer. Sir Rowland* is in armour, and the lady in the close pointed cap and girdle, fashionable at the time in which she flourished.

HARRISTOWN, near Kilcullen, is the splendid seat of Robert Latouche, Esq. The antient and dignified family of Eustace was seated here for many ages, and took the title of Baron from this estate. In the year 1650, the castle of Harristown was captured by a party of the Parliament troops, under Colonels Hewson and Reynolds. Mr. Chetwode, maternal grandson to Sir Maurice Eustace, speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of Charles I. inherited this demesne, and sold the estate to the first Duke of Leinster, by whose son, the late duke, it was again sold to the late John Latouche, Esq. father of the present proprietor. Previous to the Union, Harristown returned two members to the Irish parliament; but this borough-town, when possessed of the elective franchise, consisted of no more than a single house!—Near Harristown is one of those taper upright stones, having a conical top, which are seen in several parts of Ireland, and were probably connected with the ceremonies of druidical worship.

SALLYMOUNT,† the fine demesne of the Cramer family, is

* Sir Rowland Eustace was son of Sir Edward Eustace, of Harristown, near Kilcullen, and many years lord chancellor and treasurer of Ireland. Sir Rowland may be termed founder of the subsequent greatness of the Fitz Eustace family, as most of the extensive landed possessions of this family were acquired by him. The lady Alison, his daughter, was wife of Gerald, eighth Earl of Kildare, and died of grief, during the confinement of her noble husband in England.

† Amongst the most curious natural relics of ages unknown to history, and quite beyond the reach of tradition, must be mentioned the enormous ~~spots~~ horns found in many places beneath the surface, in different parts of Ireland. These are always discovered in low situations, where the soil is light; sometimes embedded in marble, but more frequently at a variable depth in the extensive bogs. Dr. Molyneux observes, "it is not to be questioned but these spacious horns, like others of the deer kind, were cast every year; and that the animal was indigenous, as the horns are found in every part of the kingdom." They are of the broad, or palmed kind, and are of dissimilar dimensions, the largest being not less than ten feet from one extremity to the other. Entire heads, and other remains of the skeleton,

situated near the Liffey, and opposite to Harristown. The house was built after a plan of Mr. Sandys, architect, by the Rev. Marmaduke Cramer, father to the present proprietor of this estate, the Rev. John Cramer Roberts ; of which respectable family Sir Coghill Cramer Coghill, Bart. is the senior representative. The family of Cramer, or Von Cramer, is of antient German origin, and

are sometimes found on the same spot ; a circumstance which would appear to intimate that the animal was gregarious, although this conjecture as to its habits is supposed to be erroneous by some judicious enquirers.

Mr. Pennant asserts that these horns must be referred to an animal of the Elk kind, " but of a species different from the European, being provided with brow antlers, which that wants ; neither are they of the moose deer, or American, which entirely agrees with the Elk of Europe." As the result of his investigations, this writer remarks that they may possibly be ranked among those remains which fossilists distinguish by the title of *Diluvian*.

The following statement, communicated to this work by a spectator of the discovery described, (the late W. Beauford, A. M.) will be useful in explaining the character of the animal to which such horns appertained, whilst the contrary opinion of Mr. Pennant, concerning the species of this gigantic race of deer, will, of course, be allowed its due weight. At *Sallymount, near Kilcullen*, about the year 1778, was dug up, from a marle pit, the *entire skeleton* of one of those antient animals of the Deer kind, termed by the Literati *Moose*, and supposed to be antediluvian. Not a bone of the skeleton was wanting ; and, when joined together, the size and form of the animal stood conspicuous. The withers were much higher than the haunches ; being full fourteen hands high. The neck was so short, as to prevent the animal from grazing ; nor was the head large in proportion to the body, but the horns were enormous, being ten feet from tip to tip, and the palms broad. The figure was standing upright, and the extremity of the horns not above two feet beneath the surface. The marle formed part of a land lake in the middle of a field. From this discovery the species of animal to which belonged the supposed Moose Horns, so frequently found in Ireland, remains no longer doubtful ; they being the remains of the antient European elk, some of which were found in the Hartz and Black Forests in Germany, in the beginning of the last century. They are not the same kind as the Moose of North America, but evidently a variety of the same species. Not being able to graze, they browsed on the leaves and tender branches of trees, and affected the darkest and most retired parts of forests.

settled in Ireland in the reign of James I. ; Colonel Balthazar Von Cramer being the first of that name who removed into this country.

A long and straight avenue, broad and planted on both sides with stately rows of beech trees, conducts to CASTLEMARTIN, a seat in this neighbourhood, the property of the Carter family.* Here, in the year 1200, was the baronial residence of Richard Fitz Martyn, Lord of Castlemartyn. A castle on this demesne was long a principal seat of the Fitz Eustace family, but was forfeited by them in 1641. The castle surrendered upon conditions, March 3rd, 1643, to the Marquess of Ormonde and Lord Lisle. In the same year, the commissioners first met at this place, but adjourned to Jigginstown, near Naas, where was concluded a cessation of hostilities between the Parliament and the Irish Catholics. Castlemartin was afterwards (in the month of June, 1647) taken and burned by the Parliamentarians, under Colonel Michael Jones.

The mansion, as it now stands, was built, about a century back, by Mr. Harrison, a banker of Dublin. This house, which is a large and commodious building, was converted into a barrack for the king's troops, during the insurrection of 1798 ; and did not fail to sustain considerable injury from its military occupants. In a romantic situation on the banks of the Liffey, within this demesne, is a small, but curious, church, or mortuary chapel, erected by the Fitz Martyns. The length is about thirty feet, and the width about sixteen feet. The steeple is composed simply of two parallel walls. Within the chapel is an antient tomb, overgrown with weeds ; and in the attached burial-yard are fragments of several monuments, amongst which may be noticed part of the base of an altar monument, having, in pointed niches, the heads of mutilated figures, wearing the conical Irish bonnet. Also the figure of a knight, fully armed, but headless, about eighteen inches in height, holding in the right hand an uplifted sword, and scales in the left ; a diminutive human figure occupying each scale.

* The family of Carter has been of great respectability, for several generations, in the counties of Meath and Kildare. See Archdall's *Peerage*, vol. i. p. 104, *note*.

NAAS is a small town, distant from Dublin fifteen miles and a half, towards the south-west. This place was of considerable importance in very early ages of Irish history, and constituted a residence of the kings of Leinster. We learn from O'Began that Mac Callan was dynast of Naas, when the English entered Ireland. Earl Strongbow granted this conquered tract of country to William Fitzgerald, his son-in-law, who was successively followed in possession of the property by the families of De Lendres and De Preston. Speedily after the arrival of the English, Naas was fortified, and several embattled dwellings were raised within the walls, by distinguished families connected with the property of the town and neighbourhood.

A parliament was held at this place in 1419. In 1534, the Lord Deputy Skelfington took this town from Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, who was then in open rebellion; and the greater part of the town was destroyed by fire during an irruption of Rory-oge-O'More, Dynast of Leix, in 1577*. Colonels Hewson and Reynolds captured this place for Cromwell, in 1650; and, we regret to add to the list of warlike incidents, by observing that here commenced the insurrection of 1798. On May 23d, in that

* Among the Sidney Papers is the following rather curious account of this turbulent transaction.—“*Rorie Oge Omore* and Cormocke O'Connor, accompanied not with above 140 men and boys, burned between seven and eight hundred thatched houses, in a market town called the *Nase*. They had not one horseman, nor one shot with them. They ran through the town, being open, like bags and furies of hell, with flakes of fire fastened on poles' ends, and so fired the low thatched houses; and being a great windy night, one house took fire of another in a moment. They tarried not half an hour in the town, neither stood they upon killing or spoiling of any. There was above five hundred mens' bodies in the town, manlike enough in appearance, but neither manful, nor wakeful, as it seemed; for they confess they were all asleep in their beds after they had filled themselves, and surfeited, upon their patron day. They had neither watch nor gate shut; and if they had, yet the town is open on all sides of itself, but this maketh a good proof and plain declaration, what good champions these people are for the defence of a frontier, where no soldiers are planted to defend them.”—Abridged from Sidney's Letters, &c. vol. i. pp. 166-7.

year, the insurgents, headed by a farmer named Reynolds, harried an attack on this town, but were repelled, with great loss, by the king's troops, under the command of Lieut. Gen. Dundas.

A Priory, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustin, was founded here in the twelfth century; the possessions of which house were granted, at the dissolution, to Richard Man-noryng. A monastery for Dominican friars, formerly standing near the centre of the town, was founded by the Eustace family, about the year 1355. This friary and its appurtenances were granted by King Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Lutterell, whose descendant, the late Lord Carhampton, sold his portion of the manor of Naas to Mr. Finlay, of Dublin. A monastery, for friars-eremites of the order of St. Augustin, was also founded at this place in 1484; a lease of which was granted, in the twenty-sixth of Queen Elizabeth, to Nicholas Aylmer. Some remains of the latter building are still to be seen, in the vicinity of a large earth-worth, locally termed a rath.

The Parochial Church has little claim on consideration, in an architectural point of view. The steeple, which is still unfinished, was erected, as far as the building has proceeded, by one of the Earls of Mayo. Within the walls of the church is a pyramidal monument of black and white marble, "erected by John, fourth Earl of Mayo, in memory of his grandfather, John, first Earl of Mayo, and his father, Joseph-Deane, Lord Archbishop of Tuam, and Earl of Mayo, who died 17th August, 1794, aged 63 years." In the church-yard are numerous tomb-stones, bearing inscriptions to different members of neighbouring families, now, or formerly, of much local importance.*

* At the distance of about half a mile from the town of Naas, on the Johnstown road, is a piece of land, consisting of about one quarter of an acre, enclosed by a wall, ten feet in height, given to the town, as an additional place of burial, by the Earl of Mayo, in 1782. A small division of this place of funeral deposit is reserved for the use of the noble family, at whose expense the whole was laid out and enclosed. Amongst several monuments is that of Lieut. Colonel John Balnbridge, of the Loyal Downham regiment, who died Dec. 4th, 1800, in his 33rd year.

Near the church is the *Castle of Naas*, a strong square tower so termed, which is the property of the Burgh family, of Oldtown, and constitutes the residence of the rector of the parish.

Naas was incorporated in the reign of Elizabeth, and the assizes are now held here and at Athy alternately. The county-gaol and sessions-house do not require particular notice in this work. Here is a small alms-house for four poor widows, founded by the family of Lattin, who possess considerable property in this town. The wretched inmates, as we believe, receive no other benefit from this foundation than imperfect shelter and a dinner at Christmas, although an inscription, very pompous in style and allusion, reminds the examiner that "wealth maketh many friends;" and that "when the righteous are in authority the people rejoice." Naas gives the title of baron to the Earl of Mayo.

A cut from the Grand Canal at Osberstown and Callan-bridge, to Naas, a distance of about two English miles, was completed in 1789, at the expense of £12,300-sterling.

In the immediate vicinity of the town of Naas is Oldcrown, the fine seat of Thomas Burgh, Esq. and in the neighbourhood are several other handsome mansions.

PALMERSTOWN,* the seat of the Earl of Mayo, chiefly attracts attention from the beauty of the demesne, which has been greatly improved by modern plantations. The Earl of Mayo derives his descent from the line of Bourke, or De Burgh, of Monycrower, of the potent branch of *Mac William-Ogiltar*, Lords of Mayo, whose ancestor settled at Kill and at Palmerstown, in this county, about the year 1680.

CRADOCKSTOWN, distant one mile from Naas, is the handsome seat of Mr. Carlisle. This is an antient manor of the Edestace family; and, on the decease of Colonel Alexander Edestace, chief of the name, became the property of his sister. By John Caul-

* At Palmerstown was born, in the latter part of the thirteenth century, the learned writer *Thomas of Palmerstown*, usually termed *Thomas Hybernia*. Collections towards his biography, and a list of his writings, are given by Mr. Harris (*Writers*, pp. 74-5).

sold, of Lempinstown in this county, Esq. the fee simple of this manor was sold to Mr. Latouche, of Harristown, in whom it is still vested.

JOHNSTOWN, two miles from Naas, on the high road towards Dublin, is a neat village on a little crystal stream called the Morell. Here is *Kerdiffstown*, the pleasing residence of Mr. Hendrick. This estate was long the property of the *Kerdiff* family, from whom it passed, in 1703, to the Warrens of Corduffe, and remained with those proprietors until purchased by the father of Mr. Hendrick. Embosomed in a clump of trees on this demesne, are the ruins of a very antient church.

Near Johnstown are FOURNAUGHTS, a seat of the Wolfe family; and FURNESS, a fine house and demesne, long the residence of the late Richard Jones Neville, Esq.

At the distance of about one mile from Naas are the ruins of an extensive mansion, begun, but never completed, by the unfortunate Earl of Strafford, in the time of Charles I.*

MORRESTOWN-MENAGH was the name given to an antient castle, on the borders of the river Liffey, in this part of the county, after its proprietors, the family of Morres of Muinagh, otherwise Thorny. A portion of the De Birmingham estates, in the barony of Great Connell, descended to the Morres family from Lord Geoffrey de Montemariaco, who possessed the same in right of his first wife, Eva de Birmingham.

At KILLOSSY an abbey was founded by St. Patrick, for his nephew, St. Anxil, who died A.D. 454. The church at this place is curious for its original stone roof, and for its tower, which is square to a certain height, but afterwards assumes a circular form. This elevation possesses no attribute in common with the lofty and isolated pillar towers of Ireland, but its par-

* We are told by Mr. Archdall (Peerage vol. v. p. 181) that Lord Strafford, when projecting the erection of a mansion on this spot (Jiginstown) "consulted" John Allen, Esq. who entered Ireland as a factor for the Dutch, "in the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and had great skill in architecture." Mr. Allen was ancestor of the Viscounts Allen, and designed several buildings still remaining in Ireland.

tial rotundity of shape. We have already observed, in the introductory pages of this work, that circular steeples (equally unlike the pillar-towers of the sister country) are attached to several churches in England, particularly in the eastern counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, where they are attributed, by an unsupported tradition, to the hands of the Danes.

CLAIN, or CLANE, which gives name to a barony, is situated on the Liffey, over which river is here a bridge of six arches. This village, including barracks and a Roman Catholic chapel, was burned in the year 1798, but has been since rebuilt. The manor was formerly vested in the family of Sarsfield, of this county; from whom it passed to the Wogan* family, and was, by their representatives, sold at the same time with Rathcoffy. Here are the ruins of a castle, concerning the history of which building we have in vain endeavoured to acquire intelligence. An abbey for canons regular was founded at Clain, by St. Ailbe, in the sixth century, in which was held a synod, consisting of twenty-six bishops, with numerous abbots and other dignitaries of the church, A. D. 1162. A Franciscan friary was also erected here, in the early part of the thirteenth century, of which considerable remains still exist. At this place is an ancient earthen elevation, locally termed a *Dun*.

At CASTLEBROWNE, near Clain, is a college for the education of the children of catholics, on the plan of an institution at Stonyhurst, in Lancashire. The mansion at Castlebrowne, now used, with additions, for the purpose of the above collegiate establishment, was for many years the seat of the family of Browne, who obtained this estate by an intermarriage with the family of Wogan.

At RATHCOFFY long stood a castle, the ancient seat of the Wogans, a respectable family of Welsh extraction, who first set-

* It is erroneously asserted by Archdall and Seward that the family of *O'Hogain* formerly possessed the estate of Clain. This error proceeds from the mistake of that name for *Owgan*, or *Wogan*; in both which ways the name of the real possessors was occasionally written. MSS. of Chev. De Montmerency.

tled here towards the close of the thirteenth century. Sir John Wogan was Viceroy of Ireland for several years in the reigns of King Edward I. and his successor. This antient family has merged, by females, into the families of Talbot of Malahide, and Browne of Castlebrowne. The manor of Rathcoffy, subject to a small chief rent to the Talbot family, was purchased from the late Richard Wogan Talbot, of Malahide, Esq. by Archibald Hamilton Rowan, Esq. who has levelled the venerable castle of the Wogans; with the exception of one antient gateway, and commenced a less austere residence on its site. As the principal historical event connected with the antient structure, it must be mentioned that the castle of Rathcoffy was taken, in June 1642, by Colonel Monk, afterwards celebrated as Duke of Albemarle. On this occasion he made seventy prisoners, most of whom ("being," says Cox, "murdering rebels") were executed in Dublin. The view from Mr. Rowan's house commands a vast extent of level and luxuriant country.

DONADEA CASTLE, the seat of Sir Gerald Aylmer, Bart. consists of an antient castellated pile, with additions suited to the improved habits of life in modern times. This castle was besieged by a rebellious party in 1691, but was gallantly defended by the lady of Sir Andrew Aylmer. Sir Gerald Aylmer, descended from a younger son of the house of Lyons, was created a baronet in the year 1621. The church of Donadea has been lately rebuilt, with the aid of a loan of £1000, from the Board of First Fruits.

The vast expanse of bog, termed **THE BOG OF ALLEN**, is too curious to be entirely omitted as a subject of topography, and may be most properly noticed in the present county, although it extends, with inferior degrees of encroachment, into several other districts. For more detailed information on this topic than is practicable in our pages, we refer to the very able statement presented by R. Griffith, Esq. in the "First Report from the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Nature, and Extent, of the several Bogs in Ireland." It may be necessary to remark, that most of the bogs which lie to the eastward of the Shannon, and which occupy considerable portions of the county of Kildare and the King's

County, are collectively known, in common usage, by the name of the Bog of Allen. It must not, therefore, be supposed that this term is applied to any one great morass. On the contrary, the bogs to which it bears reference are perfectly distinct from each other, are often separated by high ridges of dry country, and incline towards different rivers, as their natural directions for drainage.*

The Grand Canal passes through a great part of this tract of bogs; and hence the bog of Allen is an object of more familiarity and inquiry with travellers, both native and foreign, than would otherwise be the case with a level so cheerless and unprofitable.

* In four bogs included under this general name, examined by Mr. Griffith, he found the mass of each to be "of the peculiar substance called peat, of the average thickness of twenty-five feet, no where less than twelve, nor found to exceed forty-two; this substance varying materially in its appearances and properties, in proportion to the depth at which it lies: on the upper surface, covered with moss of various species, and to the depth of about ten feet, composed of a mass of the fibres of similar vegetables, in different stages of decomposition, proportioned to their depth from the surface, generally, however, too open in their texture to be applied to the purposes of fuel; below this generally lies a light blackish brown turf, containing the fibres of moss still visible, though not perfect, and extending to a further depth, of, perhaps, ten feet under this."—In the instance of a section, exhibited in the report of Mr. Griffith, are seen, below the last named turf, small branches and twigs of alder and birch, but it does not appear to be his opinion that this is uniformly the case. At a greater depth "the fibres of vegetable matter cease to be visible, the colour of the turf becomes blacker, and the substance much more compact, its properties as fuel more valuable, and gradually increasing in the degree of blackness and compactness proportionate to its depth; near the bottom of the bog it forms a black mass, which, when dry, has a strong resemblance to pitch or bituminous coal, and having a conchoidal fracture in every direction, with a black shining lustre, and susceptible of receiving a considerable polish."—Beneath this lower stratum there is generally found "a thin stratum of yellow or blue clay, varying in thickness from one to six feet; in some places the peat rests on a thinner stratum of yellowish white marl, containing, on an average, about sixty per cent. of calcareous matter: this stratum of clay in this district universally rests on a solid mass of clay and limestone gravel mixed together, and extending to an unknown depth." First Report of Commissioners, &c. p. 6.

The dismal monotony of the scenery is, indeed, oppressive; and, for many miles, which to the traveller appear "lengthening as he goes," few objects shoot above the gloomy plain, and awaken the fatigued attention. In the distance, it is true, the mountains of Wicklow, mingling with the skies of the horizon, suggest hints of the earthly elysium enjoyed by more fortunate tourists in that quarter; but the exercise of fancy excited by this distant prospect merely increases distaste, by provoking in the mind a strong degree of contrast. Towards the north and west the hills of Carbery and Croghan, rising abruptly from the level waste, form distant objects; and, in the south, the island of Allen admits of closer inspection, and presents a spot of cultivation in the midst of the desert. This improved district obtains its name of *island*, solely from the circumstance of being surrounded with that vast expanse of bog, through which the voyager on the Grand Canal is slowly and painfully passing. The surface of land rises very quickly from the bog, on all sides, and is, on the north-west, composed, to a considerable depth, of limestone gravel, forming very abrupt hills. On the northern edge of the island is *Ballyteague Castle*; at some distance from which, towards the west, among other inequalities of surface, rises the *Hill of Allen*, a steep elevation, of a conical form, about 300 feet in height.* This isle gives the title of viscount to the noble family surnamed Allen, which is originally English, but had been long resident in Holland, from which country

* For some very curious particulars concerning the natural structure of this island, the geological reader is referred to the "First Report of the Commissioners," &c. pp. 15-17.—*Dun Almhain* (the Hill of Allen) is supposed to present the scene of action between Fingal and Cathmor, in Macpherson's beautiful poem of Temora. In some MSS. of the late Mr. Beauford, now possessed by the present writer, it is said that the principal local objects described in that work (as "the Cave of Bran, the tomb of Oscar, Bran's fountain," &c.) are to be distinctly traced in this neighbourhood. Mr. Beauford adds that Macpherson derived the groundwork of his epic from an Irish poem called *Cath Almhain*, written by Torne Elgis, about the year 1310, the subject of which relates to a battle fought in the eleventh century.

the ancestor of the present viscount entered Ireland, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The construction of the Grand Canal has been serviceable, in imparting a source of drainage to some parts of this great series of bogs; and, in a more improved state of the country, the whole will probably be placed under profitable cultivation; a circumstance equally desirable, and, as it would appear, easy of practice. At present the Bog of Allen affords no other benefit to man than that of yielding turf for fuel, which is chiefly conveyed to Dublin by boats on the canal, and which, when it arrives there, is, we believe, more expensive, than imported coal. The mind expands with the idea of a future age beholding verdant pasturage and a smiling peasantry, where now the aspect of nature, and that of the forlorn beings so unhappy as to be identified with the region, have a lamentable co-partnership in misery.*

CARRERY, or CASTLE CARRERY, is situated in the north-western part of the county, on the border of the Bog of Allen, at the distance of 25½ miles from Dublin. Here are the remains of an antient castle, seated on a lofty, insulated hill, whence is obtained a very extensive view over the surrounding level tracts of

* The circumstances and appearance of the abject population in such parts of the bog as are witnessed by the voyager on the canal, are so faithfully described by Dr. Walsh, that we take the freedom of profiting by his words.—“To a moderate distance on each side of the canal the bog is let in small lots to turf-cutters, who, for convenience and the facility of guarding their property from theft, take up their residence on the spot, however dreary and uncomfortable. The first care of one of these, is to seek a dry bank above the influence of floods; and here he excavates his future habitation, to such a depth that little more is visible than the roof; this is sometimes covered with scanty thatch, but oftener with turf pared from the bog, which, as the herbage is upwards, so perfectly assimilates with the surrounding scenery, that the eye would pass over it unnoticed, were it not undeceived by a number of children sallying from a hole on one side, accompanied frequently by the cat, the pig, and the goat, the joint inmates of the hovel; and sometimes a cloud of smoke, which finding no other vent, issues through the roof, which, from its slight texture, is every where pervious to it, betrays the habitation.”—Hist. of Dublin, pp. 1229-30.

country. The castle of Carbery was, in the early part of the fourteenth century, the embattled residence of a branch of the Birmingham family. On the death of Walter Birmingham, the younger, in 1361, this castle passed to Sir Robert Preston, chief baron of the exchequer, ancestor of Lord Gormanstown, who had married the sister of the said Walter. In 1541, Sir William Birmingham, Knt. was created Baron of Carbery. The castle belonged, early in the reign of Elizabeth, to Sir Henry Colley, or Cowley, ancestor to the Marquess Wellesley and the Duke of Wellington, whose descendants resided at Carbery through many generations. Mary, daughter of Henry Colley, Esq. married, in 1747, Arthur Pomeroy, Esq. created Lord Harberton of Carbery, in 1783, and Viscount Harberton, in 1791.—*Newbury*, the seat of Lord Harberton, is in the immediate vicinity of Castle Carbery, and is a spacious and handsome residence.

CLONCURRY, a small village, consisting chiefly of thatched cabins, was an antient demesne of the Earls of Ormonde, under whom the Aylmer family of Lyons, and Viscount Gormanstown, derived, in fee. The late Michael Aylmer, of Lyons, Esq. sold this manor to Sir Nicholas Lawless, Bart. afterwards created *Baron Cloncurry*. Here is one of the antient moats; and near that earthen elevation, formerly stood a castle, which Colonel Monk defended for the Parliament, in 1643. That celebrated officer was, however, at length under the necessity of abandoning the fortress, from a want of provisions. A Carmelite Priary was founded at Cloncurry, in the year 1347, by John Roche; which monastery, together with the village, was burnt by the Irish septa on the Eve of the Feast of *the Seven Brothers*, A. D. 1405. Some remains of the buildings, which were renovated, and were inhabited until the general suppression of religious houses, are still to be seen. Cornelius Mac Gelan, Bishop of Kildare, termed Cornelius of Cloncurry, was some time rector of this parish, and was, probably, a native of the village. This learned divine died in 1223, and was buried in the parish church. No sepulchral monument, however, exists of an earlier date than the eighteenth century.

MAYNOOTH, distant from Dublin 11½ miles, is a small, but

improving, town, consisting chiefly of one wide street. At one termination of the street is the Royal College of St. Patrick. The area, in front of this structure, acquires a great accession of interest and pictorial beauty from the contiguous tower of Maynooth Church, which is richly mantled with ivy, and from the fine ruins of the Castle, whose stately towers are in different stages of decay. At the opposite termination of the street is the entrance of Carton park, the demesne of the Duke of Leinster.

It is traditionally asserted that a convent of "Black Nuns" existed at Maynooth, in an early age. A College was built and established, "in his manor of Maynooth, parish of Laragh-Brien," in the year 1518, by Gerald Earl of Kildare; in which the noble founder placed a master, undermaster, and five priests (styled fellows), two clerks, and three boys, who were to pray for the prosperous estate of the kings of England, and for the good state of the Earl of Kildare, his wife, and their kindred, while living, and for their souls after their decease.* The same earl afterwards rebuilt the church of St. Mary, at Maynooth. The church of Maynooth is prebendal, the prebend being in the gift of his Grace the Duke of Leinster; and, in its present state, is a commodious and respectable structure, lately furnished with a good organ, from the able hand of Mr. James Bishop, of London.

Here is a Charter-school, designed for fifty-six children.

The Castle of Maynooth was a seat of the Fitzgeralds, through many of the prosperous, and some of the most-troubled years in their family annals; and is said, by Archdall, to have been built by John, the sixth Earl of Kildare, in the early part of the fifteenth century.† The principal military event connected with this for-

* For further particulars concerning the college founded at Maynooth, in Laragh-Brien, by Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, see *Hibernia Antiqua*, pp. 61—2.

† It is well known, however, that this branch of the noble family of Fitzgerald resided on the above estate at a much earlier period than the fifteenth century. John, first Earl of Kildare, died at *Laragh-Brien*, Sept. 10th, 1316. (Lodge Peer.) It may be observed that the author of the *Monast. Hib.* states (after Pembridge) that this earl was buried in the

tified pile, relates to the insurrection of Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, in the reign of Henry VIII. some account of which is presented in our historical notice of the city of Dublin. The castle was then invested by a considerable force, under the command of Sir William Brereton. The summons of the assailants was treated with defiance by the garrison, although Lord Thomas was absent; and, after a siege of fourteen days, little impression was made on this strong hold. The besiegers at length gained possession of the place, through the treachery of one of the garrison, from whom such an act could scarcely have been expected, the traitor being *father* brother of Lord Thomas. It is gratifying to find that, as this wretch had made no stipulation for his personal safety, he was ordered to execution, immediately after receiving the price of his perfidy.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ST. PATRICK.

This collegiate establishment, for the education of persons designed for the Roman Catholic ministry in Ireland, was founded in pursuance of an act passed by the Irish parliament in the year 1796. The following, among other arguments, was used in vindicating the propriety of such an institution. The severe exercise of power, in compelling youth intended for the Roman Catholic priesthood to seek education in foreign countries, was not more cruel than impolitic, since there existed an obvious danger of their forming opinions and connexions unfavourable to a cordial unanimity with the government beneath which they were destined to act. Better motives than those of mere expediency were found in the enlarged views, and increasing tolerance, of ages in which prejudices of all kinds, and especially those which relate to reli-

Franciscan convent at Kildare. On the contrary, we are informed by the Chev. De Montmorency, in those MS. communications to which this work is greatly indebted, that there formerly existed, and was seen by him, "the mausoleum of that Earl, surmounted by his effigies, much mutilated, in a crypt, or subterranean chapel, under one of the towers of the ruined church of Larragh-Brien." To minute antiquaries we leave any further investigation of this subject, but not without remarking that few persons will suppose the above monument to have been merely a cenotaph.

gious practice and duty of conscience, may be expected progressively to fall before the extended cultivation of letters.

Previous to the foundation of a University at Maynooth, young men intended for the Irish priesthood commonly received the early part of their education at a *hedge-school*; and afterwards obtained deacon's orders from a R. C. bishop of their own country. They then repaired to an Irish college, in France, Spain or Portugal, where they remained three years (often with great difficulty, as they were too frequently members of the lowest classes of society); at the expiration of which term they claimed priest's orders. The following melancholy picture of the acquirements of many of these emigrating students, is afforded in Mr. Newenham's "*View*" of Ireland. "A very great majority of the Roman Catholic clergy were observed to spring from the dregs of the people. Youths, probably rendered fanatic by the discipline of priests, wandered about as mendicant scholars; and thus procured the means of transporting themselves to some foreign university; where, in a state of the utmost degradation and exclusion from the company of their more respectable and enlightened fellow-students, they obtained a gratuitous education; wretched, no doubt, in the extreme; but such as was deemed to qualify them sufficiently for their future ministry. On returning to their native country, the principal literary acquisitions of which the greater part of them could boast, were, a knowledge of Monkish Latin, of scholastic theology, of obsolete and incredible legends, and of the more sophistical arguments employed by those polemics whom the early reformers had provoked."*

The College of Maynooth is a building on a frugal scale, and

* Newenham's *View*, &c. p. 179.—After perusing the above statement of a dispassionate writer, our reader will place little value on the regret expressed in a recent publication (*Views of Ireland*, &c. by John O'Driscoll, Esq.) concerning the approaching extinction of that race of catholic clergy which preceded the institution of a college at Maynooth. Much less will he join with Mr. O'Driscoll in preferring a foreign to a native education, for persons designed for the priesthood, in order to afford them "a polite and liberal association!"

has few of the architectural characteristics of a structure devoted to purposes of study. It presents, in its principal façade, a square central pile with spacious wings, the whole front extending to the length of 400 feet. The central structure was originally a private house, built by the steward of the Duke of Leinster, by whom it was sold to the trustees of this institution. According to the first intention, this principal range of building was to form one side of a square, with a subordinate but spacious quadrangle towards the rear. It was, however, found necessary to relinquish the magnitude of such a design; and, besides the front, there has chiefly been completed one entire side, and part of a second side, of the projected quadrangle on the rear. These latter buildings comprise the dormitories of the college, which open from galleries nearly 300 feet in length, serving as ambulatories during inclement seasons.

With the exception of the library, the whole of the public buildings are contained in the principal front. The *Chapel* is sufficiently capacious, and is moderately ornamented, but without any decisive architectural character or striking beauty. The chief *Lecture-room* and the *Refectory* are of ample proportions, and appear to be well adapted to their respective purposes. The *Library*, which is properly placed in a retired part of the additional buildings, is a neat and eligible, but not extensive, apartment, containing numerous theological works, but at present lamentably defective in other classes of literature.

The collegiate buildings have in front about two acres of ground, divided from the street by a wall and iron-railing; but, notwithstanding that barrier, the situation is far from being desirable. The traffic of the town approaches too close to a building devoted to scholastic uses, and injures, in appearance, the dignity as well as the repose of an academic pile, well placed only when in the tranquil shade. The whole of the grounds attached to the college comprise fifty acres; and behind the buildings a large proportion of this attached land is laid out in retired walks, adorned with plantations, and admirably adapted to the uninterrupted exercise of the studios.

The number of students is about 250, who are sent, in respective proportions, from the four provinces of Ireland. The college is founded exclusively for persons designed for the Roman Catholic ministry; and, besides other conditions, the recommendation of his prelate is required from every applicant for admission. The principal officers and professors are a President (who must be a native subject of the British empire); a Vice-President; a Dean; Procurator, or Bursar; Professors of the Sacred Scriptures; of Dogmatic Theology; of Moral Theology; of Natural and Experimental Philosophy; of Logic; of Belles Lettres; of Hebrew; of Greek and Latin; of English Elocution; of the Irish Language; and of the French Language; together with Lecturers on Dogmatic Theology; on Moral Theology; and on Logic.*

The collegiate establishment is supported by annual grants from parliament, which, in most recent years, have amounted to 9250*l.* aided by some private donations and legacies, not hitherto of great importance. About 32,000*l.* have been expended on the buildings.

The mansion of CARTON, distant about one mile from Maynooth, is a spacious and magnificent structure, worthy of its destination in constituting the principal residence of the premier peer

* An account of the course of studies prescribed to the students may be seen in several publications, as one of which may be mentioned the *Hist. of Dublin*, by Whitelaw and Walsh, vol. ii. From that work we extract the following particulars, respecting the general order of each day. "The students are summoned by a bell; at half-past five they meet for public prayer; from six they study in the public halls; at half-past seven mass is performed; at eight they breakfast; at nine, study in public halls; at ten, attend class; at half-past eleven, recreation; at twelve, study in public halls; at half-past one, attend class; at three, dinner; at five, class for modern languages; at six, study in public halls; at eight, supper; at nine, common prayer; and at half-past nine, all retire in silence to their chambers. There are two public examinations held in each year, at Christmas and Midsummer, and premiums are given, whose value is proportioned to the merit of the answerer. The period of study is usually five years; two devoted to Humanity, Logic, and Mathematics, and three to Divinity. Sometimes this period is abridged by the omission of Mathematics."—Whitelaw and Walsh, vol. ii. p. 1322.

of Ireland. This fine seat was erected in the latter part of the eighteenth century, after the designs of Richard Cassels, whom we have already mentioned as the architect of Leinster-house, formerly the town residence of the Duke of Leinster, but now the house of the Dublin Society. The plan comprehends a central edifice, of august proportions, with two projecting pavilions, united to the principal building by a fine and graceful corridor. Few ornaments are introduced in the design of the exterior. The elevation is lightened at the top by an open balustrade. The entrance is by a portico, having the family arms in the tympanum of the pediment. The pavilions are entirely destitute of external embellishment.

The interior is arranged with a degree of splendour suited to the noble family which exercises within these walls the hospitality of ancient Ireland, refined by the habits of more intellectual ages. The whole of the principal apartments are of large dimensions, and are richly adorned. The dining-room, recently completed under the direction of Richard Morrison, Esq. architect, is fifty-two feet long; twenty-four feet wide; and twenty-four feet high. This is believed to be the finest apartment in Ireland, appropriated to the same use. In this superb mansion are the following, among other paintings.

Landscape, with figures expressing the story of Europa. Size, 6 feet 5½ inches, by 5 feet 7½ inches. *Claude.*

St. Sebastian. Supposed *Caracci.*

Descent from the Cross. *G. Poussin.*

Landscape, with Cattle. *Cuype.*

A Schoolboy. *Rembrandt.*

Cattle. *Cuype.*

Acis and Galatea. *Giordano.*

Landscape and Figures. *N. Poussin.*

Holy Family. *Andrea del Sarto.*

Goats and Sheep. *Rosa de Tivoli.*

Repose in Egypt. *L. Giordano.*

Lazarus and Dives. *Vander Bosch.*

Battle piece. *Borgognoni.*

Interior of a Church. *Naefs*,
 A fight of Lions. *Snyders*.
 Ballad Singers. *Ostade*.
 Cattle. *Rosa de Tivoli*.
 Holy Family. *Palma*.
 Two Landscapes. *G. Poussin*.
 Boy and white Horse. *A. Cyp*.
 Two Sea pieces. *Vandermeer*.
 Dead Game. *Snyders*.
 St. Jerome. *Spagnoletto*.
 Landscape and Cattle. *Cignaroli*.
 Stag-Hunt. *Oudry*.
 Magdalen. *Ferini*.
 Landscape. *Rayedael*.
 Owl. *Hondekotter*.
 Card-players. *Honthorst*.
 St. John. *Meelart*.

There are also some family portraits of considerable interest, including an Earl of Kildare, by *Holbein*; a full length of the late Duke of Leinster; and the Duchess Dowager of Leinster, by *Romney*.

The park which surrounds this mansion is of great extent, and has every charm which can be imparted by abundance of wood and judicious disposal. The surface is agreeably varied by gentle swells; but none of the bold features of nature, which characterise by far the greater number of Irish demesnes, and render them magnificent and enchanting, even when of limited size, are here found. Those softer beauties which afford repose to the eye, and which, perhaps, yield the most permanent gratification, are, however, seen in captivating variety. A stream, which winds through the principal parts of this spacious park, has been expanded by art into a river of ample width, and assists in forming much picturesque scenery, as it pursues its course amidst verdant swells of land, peculiarly soft and graceful, or approaches the sheltering masses of wood which dignify the demesne. Scenery so tranquil would appear to invite the introduction of artificial objects; and

such we find to have been, accordingly, carried into execution. On one of the most elevated parts of the park is placed a well-designed prospect-tower; and from another division of the grounds rises a pillar, which is conspicuous through a long tract of the surrounding country. This latter erection is in itself a handsome object, when viewed from the mansion, and acquires additional interest from the circumstance of having afforded employment to the poor in a time of great scarcity and privation. The whole demesne is encompassed by plantations, and the house is approached from Maynooth through a long and fine avenue of trees.

Carton belonged, for many ages previous to the early part of the eighteenth century, to a branch of the family of Talbot of Malahide and Templeoge. William Talbot, of Carton, Esq. was created a baronet in 1632. He died in 1633, leaving a numerous family. Richard, his eighth and youngest son, was the well-known Duke of Tyrconnel, minister of King James II.

LEIXLIP, a small but neat fair town, is seated on the river Liffey, at the distance of eight miles from Dublin. The chief ornament of this place is *Leixlip Castle*, which structure is boldly situated on an eminence overhanging the river. On the west side it is flanked by a circular, and on the east by a square, tower. This castle is now in the possession of the Hon. George Cavendish, and was formerly the residence of the White family, who owned for many ages the town and manor of Leixlip. Sir Nicholas White, who died in the year 1654, married a daughter of the Lord Moore, and lies buried in the church of Leixlip, a respectable building in the pointed style of architecture. The estate was afterwards purchased by the Right Hon. William Conolly; and, while the castle was in the possession of the Conolly family, it became the occasional residence of several eminent persons, among whom may be named Primate Stone and Lord Townshend. The river scenery of this neighbourhood is enriched by a waterfall, termed the *Salmon leap*, which is a fine and picturesque object.

CELBRIDGE (otherwise *Kildroghed*) is a neat and thriving village, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Liffey, over which river is here a handsome stone bridge. In this village, and its

immediate vicinity, are extensive woollen and cotton manufactories. In the church, which is situated on the border of the Castletown demesne, is the mausoleum of the extinct family of Conolly, late proprietors of this place.

Celbridge acquires a considerable degree of interest from its former connexion with Dean Swift, and the fair but unfortunate *Vanessa*. Bartholomew Vanhomrigh, the father of the lady celebrated by Swift under the name of Vanessa, was a Dutch merchant, who settled in Dublin towards the close of the seventeenth century, where he obtained considerable property, and served the office of lord mayor, anno 1697. Mr. Vanhomrigh died in the year 1708, leaving two sons and two daughters, of whom Esther (the Vanessa of Swift) was the survivor. The romantic and excessive affection which this lady entertained for Swift is well known. The surprise which so enthusiastic a passion created in the mind of the dean, and the urgency with which he advised his friend and pupil to conquer desires which never would be gratified, are stated in words which, from their elegance, must commemorate the tale to a very late posterity, in the poem of Cadenus and Vanessa. Very shortly previous to his decease, Mr. Vanhomrigh had built a house at Celbridge, to which Vanessa retired in 1717; and in this seclusion she nursed, with a destructive ardour, too common to the youthful and impassioned, the morbid tenderness of fancy that was the bane of her existence. Swift forbore to visit her at this place, until the year 1720; and their subsequent intercourse had an abrupt termination.* Vanessa died at Celbridge,

* It has been said that Vanessa, "desirous of knowing the real nature of the dean's connexion with Stella, addressed a letter to that lady upon the subject, which she communicated to Swift, who, in a paroxysm of rage, rode out to Celbridge, and flinging the letter upon the table left the room, and was never afterwards reconciled to her."—In Sir Walter Scott's *Life of Swift*, that writer has presented the world with some "minute particulars" of Swift's intercourse with Vanessa at "Marlay Abbey, near Celbridge." This account is given on the authority of a nameless correspondent, and is believed to be destitute of solid foundation. Relying on the testimony of an "aged man," a gardener, "who remembered the unfortunate Vanessa well," Sir Walter mentions the following, among other circum-

in 1723, and her unrequited affection, after a hopeless continuation of more than ten years, was so far smothered in resentment, that the name of Swift was not mentioned in the last will by which she disposed of her ample property.

CASLETOWN, the noble residence of Lady Louisa Augusta Conolly, relict of the Right Hon. Thomas Conolly, is approached from the village of Colbridge through an avenue planted with limes, one mile in length. In the time of the late Mr. Conolly, of patriotic memory, Castletown was distinguished by the exercise of an unbounded hospitality, which will long be remembered in Ireland, and has been emphatically noticed by a philosophical tourist.*

The mansion is a capacious structure of stone, consisting of a centre, united by colonnades to pavilions, the whole designed in the Ionic order. The apartments are, in general, neither spacious nor lofty, chiefly with the exception of a gallery, termed the library, which, with an adjoining drawing-room, measures ninety feet in length. The hall of entrance is also a fine apartment. The grand staircase has mahogany balustrades, with railings

stances:—"The garden was to an uncommon degree crowded with laurels. The old man said, when Mrs. Vanhomrigh expected the dean she *always* planted, with her own hand, a laurel or two against his arrival. He showed her favourite seat, still called Vanessa's bower. Three or four trees, and some laurels, indicate the spot. They had formerly, according to the old man's information, been trained into a close arbour. There were two seats and a rude table within the bower, the opening of which commanded a view of the Liffey, which had a romantic effect, and there was a small cascade that murmured at a distance. In this sequestered spot, according to the old gardener's account, the dean and Vanessa used often to sit, with books and writing materials on the table before them." For some strictures on the above statement of Sir W. Scott, see Mr. Moncke Mason's *Hibernia Antiqua*.

* "Castletown, the seat of Mr. Conolly, the greatest commoner in the kingdom, is fitted up in the most elegant modern taste, and his mode of living is in the highest style of hospitality. He has a public news or coffee-room, for the common resort of his guests in boots, where he who goes away early may breakfast, or who comes in late may dine; or he who should chuse to go to bed, may sup before the rest of the family. This is almost primely." *Philosophical Survey*, p. 54.

of brass, and the whole mansion is richly fitted up, in the best style of the last age. Among the paintings preserved in different apartments we notice the following. *Michael Angelo*, by himself; contemplating a seal. A fine *Head of John the Baptist*. *A Dutch Fair*, by Teniers. *Portraits*. The late Right Hon. Thomas Conolly. Lady Louisa Augusta Conolly, his lady, daughter of the second Duke of Richmond. General Ginkle. The Duke de Schoenberg. Duchess of Portsmouth, mother of the first Duke of Richmond. A half-length of the same lady; very fine. Half-length of the Right Hon. William Conolly, speaker of the Irish house of commons, father of the late Mr. Conolly. The speaker's lady, of the Wentworth family. Duchess dowager of Leinster, sister to Lady Louisa Conolly. The Duke of Richmond, father of those ladies. The Right Hon. John Staples, brother-in-law of Mr. Conolly; full-length. The first Lord Holland. The late Duke of Leinster. Admiral Pakenham, afterwards Lord Longford. Dr. Woodward, bishop of Cloyne. Hussey Burgh. Dr. Bernard, bishop of Limerick; and the Earl of Clare, lord chancellor.—It may not be superfluous to add that, in a lobby, is also the portrait of "Pen Moore," who died in this house aged 112 years.

The extensive demesne of Castletown is flat but richly wooded, and is much ornamented by the flow of the Liffey, which river passes along its borders.

Lrross, the seat of Valentine-Browne Lawless, Lord Cloncurry, is distant from Dublin about twelve miles. At this place resided, for many centuries, the family of Aylmer, a junior branch of which family enjoys the title of baron in the Irish peerage. Ralph and William Aylmer, as we are informed by Archdall, were living at Lyons in the year 1300. Michael Aylmer, Esq. in the latter part of the eighteenth century, sold this antient inheritance of his respectable family to Sir Nicholas Lawless, Bart. created Lord Cloncurry in 1789; from whom the estate descended to his son, the present baron. At Lyons was formerly a town, of which no traces now appear, except the ruins of the castle and church, both of which are on the verge of Lord Cloncurry's pleasure-grounds.

A principal tower of the former building is still remaining, with a winding staircase of stone, that leads to its summit. This castle was taken and sacked, and the neighbouring country laid waste to a great extent, by the express orders of the republican lords justices Parsons and Borlace, in February, 1641. The ruins of the church, which formed for many ages the burial-place of the Aylmer family, are in the pointed style of architecture; and present an object of equal interest to the antiquary and the lover of the picturesque.

The present mansion of Lyons is a handsome and spacious structure, chiefly erected after the designs of Mr. Grace, architect. The central part of the building is of square proportions, united on each side with a pavilion, by a corridor of considerable beauty. The material of the whole is a fine and durable granite.

The interior is well arranged, and contains many noble apartments, the principal of which are fitted up with a conspicuous delicacy of taste. The sides of several rooms in the chief suite are embellished with fresco paintings, by Gabrielli, an artist brought from Rome by Lord Cloncurry, and protected for several years in Ireland by that nobleman, where he executed some pictures of considerable merit. The best of his room-paintings in this mansion are the decorations of a drawing-room, the subjects of which are after Claude, and represent the most strongly-marked seasons of the day, from the first blush of morning to the pale splendour of moonlight evening. The walls of a contiguous apartment are enriched by his pencil with representations of the bays of Dublin and Naples, between which a parallel has been often imagined, and which are happily brought into a comparative point of view so near the attractive shores of the former. The saloon is embellished by the same hand, chiefly with designs after ornaments found at Herculaneum.

The noble proprietor of this demesne has evinced a considerable degree of classic taste in the numerous antiques, and other works of art, here repositied. Amongst these may be noticed the following :—A fine sarcophagus, admirably sculptured, and in a high state of preservation. This relic is composed of statuary

marble, but has curiously acquired, through the operations of time, a thick incrustation, resembling a coat of paint, of a light red tint. The chief subject represented is that of lions destroying a deer—emblematic of the havoc effected on all material beings by the law of nature. Inserted in the pannels of the dining-room are three fine pieces of alto relievo, describing the same number of passages in the story of Dædalus and Icarus. These merit attentive examination, from the various affecting touches of nature introduced by the artist. In the same apartment are two large vases, excellently sculptured, and a statue more beautiful than delicate—the Grecian Venus. In the great drawing-room is an exquisite antique miniature-statue of Agrippina, seated. An air of matronly dignity, strongly expressed, renders this figure reverentially lovely : and it may be remarked, as a circumstance not devoid of interest, that Canova borrowed the attitude and air, of this figure of Agrippina, in executing an admired statue of the mother of Napoleon Bonaparte. Amongst the works of art preserved in other rooms, are a bust of Tasso, from the mask taken after his death ; and a very fine small statue of Faunus, by Deere, which has been noticed by Canova, in warm terms of commendation. In the entrance-hall are busts of the two deceased ornaments of their country, Mr. Grattan and Mr. Curran.

One of the pavilions attached to this mansion is used as a gallery of statues, and contains many excellent casts from the antique, procured from Rome by Lord Cloncurry, and assembled here as a study for the benefit of native artists ; an act evincing so much liberality of sentiment as to need no lengthened comment.—It is with peculiar pleasure that we notice this love of the arts, and exercise of encouragement towards those who practise them on their native soil, in a resident Irish nobleman. We, therefore, observe, with no ordinary feeling of regret, that from an accidental circumstance, the mansion of Lyons is destitute of paintings by the antient masters. Lord Cloncurry, at a propitious juncture, made a most valuable collection of pictures at Rome, including five pieces by Raffaele, and as many by Claude. This precious freight reached the coast of Ireland ; but the vessel to which they were entrusted was unfortunately

wrecked between Bray and Killiney, and the whole of the pictures were lost!

The mansion of Lyons is placed on rising ground, but is surrounded with a flat tract of country, by no means conspicuous for beauty. The pleasure grounds, which are extensive and well-planted, are greatly ornamented by a fine sheet of water, and are bounded in one direction by the Grand Canal. The demesne includes a deer-park and decoy for wild fowl. Here, also, is one of those artificial mounts locally termed raths, from the summit of which is obtained an extensive view over the central flat district of Ireland, including parts of not less than thirteen counties. The line of demarcation between the counties of Kildare and Dublin passes across this artificial mount.

At OUGHTERARD are the ruins of a small church, and a pillar tower. The former building was re-edified in 1609, on the site of a chantry of great antiquity, which formerly stood, as we are told, close to the town of *Cloneglisk*; of which town no traces now remain. The walls of the church were built of the same kind of stone as the tower, and, possibly, from the materials of such parts of that structure as had fallen to the ground. Under the west end of the church is an antient crypt, used at present as a place of sepulture by the ennobled family of Ponsonby, of Bishop's-court. The mutilated tower is distant more than thirty feet from the remains of the church. The door faces the east, and is ten feet from the ground. The head of this door is round, and the arch is formed of nine massy blocks of stone. At the height of twenty feet on the south side is a window, of the same shape and dimensions as the door.* Within are the remains of brackets, designed for the support of lofts.

* In an Essay on the "Origin and Use of the Irish Pillar-tower," by Col. de Montmorency, it is observed that "the use of the upper door, or window, was for the purpose, no doubt, of exposing to public veneration (as in Catholic countries is customary), the holy sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus Christ; it served, also, instead of a pulpit, before the introduction of spacious roomy churches, for the abbot or clergyman from thence to preach to the people below, who might conveniently assemble in these places to hear him." Essay, &c. p. 41. note.

On a level tract of ground, near the banks of the Liffey, and in the vicinity of Celbridge, stood an abbey, founded in 1203, in honour of St. Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester. At the dissolution this abbey, and its ample possessions, were granted to the lord chancellor Alen, whose descendants retained the manor of St. Wolstan until 1752, at which time it was purchased by Dr. Robert Clayton, Bishop of Clogher. That learned divine greatly improved the house on this estate, which was built from the ruins of the abbey, after the designs of Mr. Joshua Allen, ancestor of Viscount Allen, and not related to the Alens of St. Wolstan. This house is now, we believe, occupied as a school. Some unimportant ruins of the monastic structure are still to be seen.

STRAFFAN, situated on the river Liffey, between Celbridge and Clain, is the fine seat of the Henry family. The river is here crossed by a stone bridge of three arches. The mansion is built of brick, and occupies a beautiful position on the banks of the Liffey, which are extremely picturesque in this neighbourhood. The demesne is surrounded with a high stone wall, and the grounds are richly planted.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

This island district, which is chiefly formed from the extensive tracts termed Leix and Ossory, was constituted a separate county early in the reign of Queen Mary, and received its modern appellation in compliment to that sovereign. The Queen's County is separated, on the east, from Kildare, by the River Barrow. On the south-east it meets the county of Carlow; and on the south and south-west is bounded by Kilkenny and Tipperary. The King's County forms its boundary towards the north; and on the north-west it is divided from the same county by a chain of lofty and precipitous elevations, termed the Slieveblower mountains, which constitute so decisive a natural barrier, that, in the whole extent of their range, there is no more than one pass, and that solitary channel of communication between the two counties is narrow and difficult.

With the aid of manuscripts communicated by the Chevalier De Montmorency, we are enabled to present the following succinct particulars relating to the ancient history of this county.

The districts of Leix and Ossory, which, at all times, were governed separately, were, on the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, ruled principally by the septs of Mac Giolla-Phadraig, the *Servus Sacerdos Sancti Patricii*, (afterwards converted into the Anglo-Norman *Fitzpatrick*;) and those of O'More and O'Dempsey.

* Thomas Ratcliff, Earl of Sussex, "having thoroughly broken and subdued the two most rebellious and powerful Irish septs in Leinster, namely the O'Mores and O'Connors, possessing the territories of Leix and Offaly, did, by act of parliament, 3 and 4 Phil. and Marim, reduce these countries into two several counties; naming the one, the King's, and the other, the Queen's County; which were the first two counties that had been made in this kingdom, since the 12th year of King John; at what time the territories then possessed by the English colonies, were reduced into twelve shires." Davies's "Discoverie," &c. p. 248.

Subordinate to those great houses were many tributary toparchs, as O'Dunne, O'Regan, and O'Dullany; with others of still inferior note, as O'Lawler, O'Redy, Mac Gilfoyle, and Mac Haffy.

The Strongbowian invaders found it a more perilous and difficult task to obtain a footing in this district, than in any other quarter of the island; as the inhabitants, naturally warlike, were greatly favoured in their resistance by the boggy intricacies of the territories they defended. The Fitzgeralds and the De Berminghams, partly by force, but more, perhaps, through the policy of effecting intermarriages with the native septs, acquired possession of certain portions of land, whereon they speedily erected castles. On the other hand, the Carews, barons of Idroae, the Mortimers, earls of March, and other distinguished English families, obtained repeated grants from the crown of large tracts of land in Leix and Ossory, which grants were rendered nugatory by the intrepid and persevering resistance of the ancient proprietors.

The powerful family of Butler, towards the latter part of the fifteenth century, made a well-organised and successful attempt to wrest from the turbulent Fitzpatricks, their most troublesome neighbours, the territory of Ossory, comprising, at that period, the most valuable part of the district now denominated the Queen's County. Open war was accordingly commenced between Peter, Earl of Ormonde, and the dynast of Ossory, the former being supported by his relations, friends and followers, and the latter aided by those contiguous septs which believed their own security to be involved in the issue of the contest. The earl was ably assisted by his countess, the Lady Margaret Fitzgerald, one of the most celebrated females of her age, who has been often mentioned in this work as having possessed a masculine genius and an invincible courage, to which qualities must be added, by the impartial historian, a conscience of great latitude, well suited to the exigencies of the times with those who aspired to an increase of possession and dignity. This lady had augmented the strength and resources of her family, by contract-

ing alliances between her children and the most potent of the nobility connected with Ireland.* To advance the object of his triumph over the Fitzpatricks, the earl, who stood in high favour at the British court, proposed to partition fairly between the friends who assisted him in the undertaking,† such lands and possessions as might be yielded to their united arms. To prevail over opposition was, however, found more easy than to retain possession of the tract nominally conquered; and it would appear that the onerous task of keeping down the Fitzpatricks chiefly devolved, according to the terms of his family-alliance with the earl, upon Sir Oliver Morres, whose name is, consequently, one of the most conspicuous in the annals of Ossory relating to this disturbed and sanguinary era.

Although this district was constituted a separate county in the reign of Mary, it received no other additional English settlement than the Fort of Maryborough, until the time of Queen Elizabeth, when the Fitzpatricks, instigated by rancorous hatred towards their rivals the O'Mores and O'Conors on one side, and the Butlers and family of Morres on the other, proved the most efficient allies of government in completing the subjugation of a tract of country, so truly formidable whilst its native possessors remained united. It was chiefly during the government of Sir

* James, the eldest son of the Earl of Ormonde, and two of his daughters, were married into the Desmond family. Two other daughters were married to the lords Dunboyne and Cahir. One daughter to the Earl of Thomond; and Lady Ellice Butler, the fourth daughter of the Earl of Ormonde, and the Countess Margaret, was first married to Sir Oliver Morres, styled Mac Mores, concerning whom some further particulars are stated in our notice of *Castletown* in this county, and secondly to Sir Gerald FitzGerald, third lord of Decies.

† The family of Grace, barons of Courtstown, with their numerous adherents, contributed largely to the success of this feudal enterprize, and wrested from their antient enemies the Fitzpatricks, a considerable tract of land, situated where the northern confines of the cantred of Grace's Country join the territories of Ossory. To protect these acquisitions, and to suppress further inroads from their hostile neighbours, the border fortress of *Grace-castle* was erected, some remains of which are still discernible.

Henry Sydney that the power of the O'Mores, who had formerly exercised almost unlimited sway in these parts, was finally broken. In obedience to the dreadful temper of the times, this object was achieved by the unsparing use of the sword. The followers of the O'Mores, and their dependant septs, were banished into the southern counties of Cork and Kerry, then nearly depopulated. At this juncture many respectable English families, to whom lands destitute of hereditary owners were granted by the crown, fixed themselves permanently in the Queen's County, their descendants, in several instances, still holding a distinguished place among the old resident gentry. Seven of these families, whose founders bore a prominent share in subduing the natives, and in building forts and castellated houses for the defence of their estates, acquired the appellation of the *Seven Tribes*. The "tribes" so called are the families of Cosby; Hartpole; Bowen; Barrington; Ruish; Hetherington; and Hovenden, or Orvington.*

In the reign of Charles I. very considerable grants of land in this county were made to Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, which now constitute the extensive manor of Villiers. This great lordship descended to the late Duke of Chandos, by means of whose only daughter, and sole heir, it is now the property of his grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. In the same reign also, and during the busy years of the republic, the gentry of the county received additions in the families of Pygot; Coote; Prior; Parnell; Pole, &c. Soon after the accession of William III. the list of distinguished residents, or possessors of estates, was farther enriched by the noble families of Vescy, Viscounts de

* Of the princely grants made to these families, in the time of Elizabeth, little now remains, except as regards the family of Cosby, of Stradbally Hall, which still retains nearly the whole of the possessions then acquired. The family of Barrington, of Cullinagh, is still extant, but alienated the last remains of their large estates a few years ago. A total extinction in the male line has occurred in the families of Hartpole of Shrute; Bowen of Ballyadams; Hetherington of Knightstown; Ruish of Ruish Hall; and Hovington of Tankardstown.

Vesey; of Dawson, Earl of Portarlington; and also of Staples Burrows, Johnson, and others of high respectability.

Queen's County is divided into nine baronies, named *Upper Ossory* (subdivided into three *cantreds*); *Cullinagh*; *East Maryborough*; *West Maryborough*; *Stradbally*; *Portnelinch*; *Tinehinch*; *Slewmargy*; and *Ballyadams*. The parishes are fifty in number; twenty-seven of which are situated in the diocese of Leighlin; fourteen in Ossory; seven in Kildare; one in Kilkenny; and one in the diocese of Dublin. The extreme length of the county is about twenty-seven miles, and its greatest breadth nearly the same. The returns under the act of 1812, for ascertaining the population of Ireland, are stated as follows:

Baronies, Half Baronies, or Parishes.	Number of Houses.	Gross Population.
*Ballyadams,	1,187	6,580
Cullinagh,	2,311	12,995
Maryborough, East,	1,455	9,191
*Maryborough, West,	2,528	13,890
Portnelinch,	2,113	11,904
Slewmargy,	2,137	12,750
Stradbally,	1,193	6,939
Tinehinch,	2,151	11,538
Ossory,	4,857	28,070
Total,	19,932	113,857

According to returns made in the year 1821, the number of houses was 23,067; and the number of inhabitants 129,391. Thus, according to those returns, the increase of inhabitants between the years 1813 and 1821, would appear to have amounted to 15,534.

Besides the Slieve-bloom mountains, which we have mentioned as forming its western boundary, and a range of elevations termed the Dysart Hills, which rise singly, and produce a pleasing variety of surface, rather than a conspicuous degree of picturesque beauty, it is believed that there is a want of accuracy in the returns for the baronies of Ballyadams and Maryborough, West.

effect, this county possesses no bold eminences. In prevailing character it is either flat or softly undulating; but, in several districts, it presents much agreeable scenery, and is greatly favourable to the labours of the agriculturist. Considerable quantities of corn are here produced, and large tracts of land are profitably appropriated to pasturage. Butter, principally made in the barony of Ossery, affords a lucrative article of commerce; and the cheese of this county, although far from being good, is considered superior to any made in other parts of Ireland. Considerable attention is bestowed on the breed of cattle; and oxen are usually joined with horses in ploughing, and in many other agricultural operations. The farm-buildings are in general of a humble character, and the dwellings of the peasantry, except on certain favoured spots, are sordid below the ordinary traveller's conception of humility.

The principal rivers are the Barrow and the Nore; the former of which is navigable, from the town of Portarlington to the sea near Waterford.

A branch of the Grand Canal passes along the north-eastern part of the county, and meets the river Barrow at the town of Athy. The whole county is deficient in wood; but the demesnes of affluent residents are frequently well-planted. Large tracts of bog still remain in many parts, although much has been lately reclaimed, with exemplary perseverance and success. Amongst the mineralogical productions of this district may be noticed iron and copper, which abound in the hills, but are at present not worked. Large quantities of coal are found in the barony of Slewamary, and are disposed over neighbouring districts by the conveyance of cars, or sent to Dublin by means of the Grand Canal. No manufacture of importance is cultivated in this populous county, with the exception of serges and stuffs, which were formerly made more largely than at present, chiefly in the neighbourhood of the few principal towns.

This county contains several handsome seats; and the antiquarian visitor will be gratified with the view of many relics of ecclesiastical and military architecture, often the emphatical memorials of important passages in history. The following noblemen

and gentlemen may be mentioned as the principal proprietors of landed estates, at the present time : Duke of Buckingham and Chandos ; Lords Lansdown and Drogheda ; Stanhope ; Annesley ; Portarlington ; Upper-Ossory ; De Vescy ; Maryborough ; Newbury ; Carbery ; Kenmare ; Castle-Coote ; Sydney ; Osborne.—Sirs George Pigott ; William Grace ; Walter Burrows ; John Allen—Johnson Walsh ; Charles Coote ; Henry Parnell ; Robert Staples ; Capel Molyneaux ; and William Hort.—Messrs. Cosby ; Weldon ; Dunne ; Grattan ; Cooper ; Evans ; Putland ; Trench ; Warburton ; Rochford ; Gore ; Fitz-Patrick ; Fitz-Gerald ; Fitz-Maurice ; Kelly ; Bowen ; White ; Rothe ; Hussey ; Gale, and Kemmis.

MARYBOROUGH, the assize town of this county, is situated on a branch of the river Barrow, at the distance of forty miles from Dublin, towards the south-west. This place presents few attractions, either as regards extent, traffic, or architectural character. Nor will the antiquary here find much gratification. The remains of a castle are still to be seen, which building is said to have "been erected by Bellingham." The name of Maryborough was bestowed upon this town in honour of Queen Mary, at the same time that the county received its modern appellation from her majesty. Amongst the few public buildings must be mentioned the County Infirmary. The church was renovated, with the aid of £500, given for that purpose by the Board of First Fruits, about the year 1800. A considerable trade in bread stuffs, called *Durants*, was long cultivated at this place and the neighbouring town of Monatmelick, but has latterly experienced declension. The internal government of Maryborough is vested in a burgo-master, two bailiffs, and a town-clerk. The office of constable of the castle is still retained, although the fortress has been long sunk in decay.

At the distance of about one mile and a half from Maryborough formerly stood *RATHFRAGUE*, the seat of Sir Henry Parnell, Bart ; and in the same neighbourhood is *LAMBERTON*, late the residence of Sir John Tydd, Bart. and now of Mr. Justice Moore.

The celebrated *Rock of Dunamase* is distant from Maryborough

about four miles. The name of this place, which signifies the *Fort of the Plain*, is expressive of its character and local circumstances. The rock is in parts precipitous, and is quite inaccessible on all sides except that towards the east. The plain from which it rises, in isolated majesty, is a flat heath, of considerable extent, usually termed, in the neighbourhood, the *Great Heath*. It appears that, from the earliest recorded period, a fortified habitation existed upon the summit of this bold and singular elevation. Whilst the art of war was in its infancy, few precautions, indeed, were necessary to render defensible heights so stupendous and difficult of approach. The rude castrametation of the Celtic chieftain, thus situated, frowned contempt on the world below, with the same natural, but barbarous, security as does the nest of the eagle, superior to all assault except the scath of the heavens. Here, on the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, was a strong hold of O'More, Prince of Leix, whose chief residence, however, was at Leix, since termed Abbey Leix. Towards the middle of the thirteenth century Dunamase became the property of William de Bruce, Lord Breckneck, in right of his wife, daughter of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke.

Under the influence of this nobleman, Dunamase was erected into a lordship, and constituted the head of his barony. Here he held a court, subject to few laws except those promulgated at the sword's point; and thither his tenants, and sub-infeudators, occupying numerous contiguous castles, repaired for the performance of suit and service. When the interests of the English settlers grew weak, in the latter years of the second Edward, this castle, among others, was wrested from their possession by the Irish claimants of the soil. "Lisagh O'Moore," writes Sir John Davies, "who called himself O'Moore, took eight castles in one evening, and destroyed Dunamase, the principall house of the L. Mortimer" (who had married the daughter of Lord Breckneck) "in Leix, and recovered that whole country." For many subsequent ages this fortress was alternately possessed, according to the preponderance of party, by the English and the Irish; all legal claims to the succession proving subservient to the vacillating

strength of arms. Early in the civil war of the seventeenth century, the castle of Dunamase was seized by the party opposed to government, but was speedily retaken by a force, detached for that purpose, by the Marquess of Ormonde. After experiencing several vicissitudes in the course of the same war, this fortress was surrendered, A. D. 1650, to the Colonels Huson and Reynolds, by whom it was dismantled, and left to sink in decay.

From the appearance of these extensive ruins it may be concluded that the principal works of fortification were effected in an early age of the Anglo-Norman ascendancy, and probably by William de Bruce, Lord Brecknock, about the middle of the thirteenth century.* The site of the castle, and the ruins, are thus described by Dr. Ledwich, in his work on the antiquities of Ireland.—“The rock is an elliptical conoid, accessible only on the eastern side, which, in its improved state, was defended by the barbican. From the barbican you advance to the gate of the lower ballium; it is seven feet wide, and the wall six feet thick. It had a parapet, crenelles, and embrasures. The lower ballium is 312 feet from north to south, and 100 from east to west. You then arrive at the gate of the upper ballium, which is placed in a tower; and from this begin the walls which divided the upper and lower ballium. The former is a plain, of 111 feet from east to west, and 902 feet from north to south, where broadest. On the highest part was the keep, and the apartments for the officers; there were a sally-port and a priory.”

The ruins of Dunamase, and the surrounding lands, are now

* William de Bruce, son Bruce, Lord of Brecknock in Wales, and of Bramber in Sussex, married Eva, fifth daughter and coheir of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster, with whom he received the palatinate of Leix, which formed one of the five royal seignories into which the great territory of Leinster was divided on the death of Anselm Marshal, sixth Earl of Pembroke, &c. The inheritance of Leix devolved upon Eva, the Lady Bruce's wife, by descent from her mother, Isabel de Glouc, the only child of Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, by his wife, Eva, daughter and heir of Dermoid Marmorking, the last King of Leinster.

the property of Sir Henry Parnell. The father of the present baronet (Sir John Parnell) exhibited a very laudable care to preserve the ruins of the castle, from further injury than they had experienced before the estate came into his possession.

The town of MOUNTRATH is distant five miles from Maryborough, and is a place of some trade and activity, but otherwise of no striking interest. Several branches of manufacture were successfully cultivated here, so long back as the early years of the seventeenth century. At that time Sir Charles Coote, whose name and family are closely blended with the annals of this town, established here manufactories of linen and fustian, on an extensive scale. The injuries committed on his property at Mountrath, by the rebellious party in the year 1641, are said to have assisted greatly in nurturing within his bosom that vindictive spirit, which stains the memory of his achievements in the civil war of the seventeenth century.

Sir Charles Coote entered Ireland at an early period of life, and formed his military habits among the stern and ferocious soldiery of Queen Elizabeth's time. His name often occurs in this work, but never when the mention of it could be avoided; for, in all his operations of war, he seems to have acted towards his opponents, in the aggregate, as if they were individually responsible for the losses he had sustained in his property at the hands of certain predatory bands of rebels. His uniformly appears on the stage of civil contest as an avenging spirit, dealing forth woe and desolation. Although his character was disfigured and rendered detestable by acts of cruelty, he certainly possessed some useful military qualities. His successful passage through the Mountrath woods, after having relieved the castle of Birr and other strong holds, has been much celebrated as an exploit evincing an unusual degree of good conduct and discretion. He was shot dead (according to some writers) by one of his own troops, in a desperate rally from the tower of Trim, on the 24th of May, 1649, by Charles the eldest son of this sanguinary captain, acquired from the Commonwealth grants of land to an

unexampled extent, most of which were confirmed to him by the Act of Settlement, and he was created Earl of *Mountrath*, in the year 1660; but the title became extinct, on the decease of Charles-Henry, the seventh earl, in 1802.

Sir Charles Coote obtained a grant, in the year 1628, of a market, on the Tuesday and Saturday in every week, and also of two annual fairs, at Mountrath. His son (Sir Charles, the first earl) had, as we are informed by Lodge and Archdall, a confirmation of the castle and manor of Mountrath, with licence to impark 400 acres, and free warren.

The country surrounding Mountrath was, in former times, and down to the memory of many persons living in the early part of the eighteenth century, one great tract of forest or wood-land. Deep in the recesses of this extensive spread of wood, were several religious foundations, of which the principal was situated at *Glennagh* (antiently written *Cluin-ednach*), about two miles to the east of the town. This monastery was founded, in the sixth century, by St. Fintan, and flourished in great reputation for many ages. Little, however, is known concerning its history after the arrival of the English.

Ruish Hall, about two miles from Mountrath, towards the west, was long the seat of the Ruish family, now extinct; and afterwards of the family of Coote, Earl of Mountrath.

On *KYLE HILL*, about two miles distant from *Burros in Ossary*, is a rude work of stone, often called by the common people the "Fairy Chair," but which did, in fact, constitute an ancient judgment-seat of the Brehons*.

CASTLETOWN, a neat village, distant one mile from the town of Mountrath, is worthy of attention for the remains of a *Castle*, boldly seated on the banks of the river Nore. In the early part of the sixteenth century Sir Oliver Morres (already mentioned, in our general notice of this county; as the son-in-law of Peter,

* A coarse engraving of this curious stone seat is inserted in the *Antiq. of Ireland*, by Ledwich, after a drawing by the late Mr. Beauford.

Earl of Ormonde), obtained forcible possession of this fortress, which he garrisoned and held for some time, whilst employed in curbing the power of the Fitzpatricks, in conformance to the terms of his alliance with the Butler family. It appears that Sir Oliver, at a date not exactly ascertained, resigned this castle and territory to the ancient proprietor, receiving, in exchange, several large estates, including the manors and lands of Grantstown, where he erected a castle (of which the extensive ruins still exist) after the plan of his castles of Muinagh, Lateragh, and Knockagh, in Tipperary. This martial and enterprising member of an illustrious family is so greatly distinguished in the annals of Ossory, which tract now forms part of the Queen's County, that some further particulars concerning his character and history, cannot fail of proving desirable.

Sir Oliver Morres, styled *Mac Morres*, Lord of Muinagh, of Lateragh, &c.; and Baron de Montemarisco by descent, was a person of much power in the county of Tipperary, and chief of the Anglo-Norman family of Montmorency. He married, as we have already stated, Lady Ellice, daughter of Peter, Earl of Ormonde, and was actively engaged in suppressing the sept of Fitzpatrick, under the auspices of the noble house with which he had formed an alliance. Sir Oliver was eldest son and heir of Sir John, and grandson of Sir James Morres, of Thorney, Lateragh, Knockagh, &c. Knight-Banneret, by Lucia, daughter to Edmond Arundel, styled Lord Arundel of the Stronde, county of Cork, a younger brother of Sir John Arundel, lord-marshal of England, and the son of Sir John Arundel the elder, by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter to Sir Oliver Carminow, of Cornwall and Devonshire, Knt. by Elizabeth his wife, daughter to John Holland, Duke of Exeter, and Elizabeth Plantagenet, daughter to John, Duke of Lancaster and King of Castile, fourth son of King Edward III.

Sir Oliver Mac Morres is described as having been a man of gigantic stature, and of surprising bodily strength; which circumstances, joined to an undaunted courage, procured for him the lasting Irish *Sobriquet* of *Ffearleoghan-agus Laghan* (the

broad man-lion). Even at this time the portion of Ossory formerly possessed by Sir Oliver, and in which the castle of Castle-town is situated, is often called "*O'farlaghan parish*." It may be observed, that to this period of history we must refer the *war-cries*, or mottos, of the Fitzpatricks, and of the Morres family of Balyrickard-Morres and Rathlin, in the county of Tipperary, Sir Oliver's sole descendants; the former being *Fear-lamb-aboe* (the strong man uppermost), and the latter *Fear-leaghas-aboe* (the man-lion uppermost).*

* The Irish, from the earliest recorded period, used a martial shout, or outcry, when in the act of joining battle. The reader will have no difficulty in recollecting that, in this particular, they entertained a practice at once common with the most rude and the most polished nations of antiquity;—with the Scythians, the Germans, the Grecians and the Romans.

We decline any discussion concerning the battle-cry (*Farrak ! Farrak !*) ascribed to the ancient Irish; and present the following extract of Harris's additions to Ware, which affords a curious memorial of the incentives proceeding from family influence, used in instigating party-spirit during times of baronial contention.

"After-ages" (times subsequent to the entry of the English) "produced many other shouts and out-cries, as signals before engagement; which were used in compliment to the leaders and heads of several families, and intended as incentives to sedition. They chiefly terminated in the Word, *aboe*, which seems to come from an obsolete Irish Word, *Abu*, signifying Cause or Business. Thus, *Butler aboe*, cryed in the beginning of an engagement, was to incite one another to behave well, as they were then engaged in the Cause or Business of Butler; and this was the cry appropriated to the house of Ormonde. Though it be a matter rather of curiosity than use, yet as the subject has not been hitherto handled, to my knowledge, I shall give the several cries appropriated to noble families, as far as they have fallen in my way, and the explanations of them, to the best of my skill, leaving such as are omitted to be explained by the industry of others. Thus,

"O-Naaf's cry was *Lamb-dearg-aboe*, i. e. the cause of Red-hand, which was his crest, or cognisance.

"O-Brien's cry was *Lamb-Lader-aboe*, i. e. the cause of Strong-hand, the crest of the O-Briens' being a dexter arm, issuing out of a cloud, holding a naked sword, all proper; which cry is now changed into a motto alluding to the same (viz) *Forceur du Dessus*, Strength from above.

Amongst many tales of marvel, still locally current, respecting the strength and courage of Sir Oliver, we are told that,

"Mac-Carthy's cry was the same as the O-Briens'; and so was the Fitz-Maurice's.

"The Earl of Kildare's (Fitz-Gerald's) cry, *Crom-aboe*; as I take it, from a strong castle called *Crom*, in the county of Limerick, belonging to that family.

"The Earl of Desmond's cry was *Shannet-aboe*.

"The Earl of Clanrickard's (Bourke's) cry, *Gairiagh-aboe*, i. e. the cause of the Red-Englishman. One of this family was called the *Red Earl*, that is, *Richard de Burgo*, the second Earl of Ulster.

"Mac-Fitl-Patrick, or Fitz-Patrick's cry *Gear-Laidir-aboe*, i. e. the cause of strong and sharp; alluding, perhaps, to the crest of that family, (*viz.*) a lion surmounted of a dragon.

"O-Carrol's cry *Showet-aboe*, possibly corrupted from *Seathar-aboe*, i. e. the cause of the strong; to which the present motto of that family seems to allude, (*viz.*) *in fide et in bello fortis*;—strong in fidelity and war.

"Mac-Swine's cry was *Battalah-aboe*, or the cause of the Noble Staff; alluding to a part of his family arms, which were two bears combatant, and above them as many battle axes in saltire; which battle axes were the arms of the Galloglasses, (*viz.*) a broad ax, with a long handle, or staff. Mac-Swine was the leader of some Irish Galloglasses in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

"The Fleming's cry was *Teins-ar-aghain-aboe*; i. e. the business of fire to the bomb. *Aghain* properly signifies a 'kettle—but is metaphorically used for a bomb or mortar. Perhaps some of this family had been masters of the ordnance. The words allude to their crest, which is a mortar-piece casting out a bomb, with flames of fire, proper, chains and rings, or.

"The Hybernian's cry was *Cearl-ad-ruas-aboe*, i. e. the cause of fight from above alluding, perhaps, to their crest, which was an armed hand couped at the wrist, and erect, holding a broken sword, all proper; signifying, as it would seem, that there was no justice to be expected from the sword, but from the protection of heaven.

"Eusey, or Eusey, titular Baron of Gairiagh, his cry, *Cor-dragh-aboe*, perhaps the cause of the great cart, alluding, if may be, to his action of one of that family in the reign of King Henry the Sixth, by which he obliged Sir John O'Kelly and his squire, single-handed, to surrender. The cry was *Cor-dragh-aboe*. The cry of O'Kelly's cry was *Cor-dragh-aboe*.—Ware's Antiqu. by Harris, vol. II. pp. 703-4.

shortly after he had gained possession of this castle, the dynast of Ossory, Barnaby Fitzpatrick, entered the place by stratagem, at the head of a party of his vassals. The completion of Fitzpatrick's design was, however, defeated; for, scarcely had he passed the castle-gate, when the lion-chief seized him in his arms, and hurled him down the tremendous precipice upon which the fortress stands, overhanging the river Nore. It is added that he cast his horse down after him!

The conquests of the Ormonde family and their adherents being secured to them by a grant of King Henry VIII. dated 1534, the same was ratified by a marriage between Lady Margaret, daughter of the earl (then relict of Thomas Fitzgerald, second son of the Earl of Desmond) and Barnaby Fitzpatrick, eldest son of the above-mentioned dynast; which Barnaby the younger, was, in 1541, created Baron of Upper Ossory, in the Irish peerage. Sir Oliver Morres bestowed his great estates in this county, and in Tipperary, on Oliver-oge, his eldest son and heir, commonly styled *Illevar-oge Mac-Illevar-laghas*, (Oliver the young, son of Oliver the lion, or the broad).

The estates in this county remained in possession of the descendants of Geoffrey, second son of Oliver-oge, down to the year 1696, at which time they were forfeited, by the chance of war, in consequence of the adherence of Edmond Morres, of Grantstown Castle, Esq. to the disastrous fortunes of King James II. This gallant, but ill-fated gentleman, was representative of Queen's County in the parliament summoned by James II.; and, with his cousin, James Morres, of Balyrickard-Morres and Clonan, Esq. was joint commandant, or colonel, of an independent regiment of cavalry, raised by themselves from their ardent and intrepid followers. Edmond Morres and Hervey, the eldest son of James Morres of Balyrickard, fell, nobly fighting in the cause of mistaken and unfortunate loyalty, at the battle of Aughrim. The estate of the former was confiscated by King William III. and granted to Richard Fitzpatrick, Lord Gowran, progenitor of the late Earl of Upper Ossory. It will be found that the great estates in this county, formerly vested in the Morres family, constitute at the

present time, the principal possessions of several peers and baronets, of modern date.

BALLYFIN, the seat of Sir Charles Henry Coote, Bart. is situated between the towns of Mountrath and Mountmelick. This estate was formerly the property of the Crosbie family (since ennobled by the title of Earl of Glendore), but was forfeited by Sir John Crosbie, Bart. in the seventeenth century. It was afterwards vested in the Pole family, from whom it descended, by will, to the Hon. William Wellesley, since created Lord Maryborough, who, on acceding to this estate, assumed the name and arms of Pole. The present proprietor, who has recently acquired the estate by purchase, has already expended, as we are informed, above £20,000, in improving the house and grounds. In the alterations that have been effected in the grounds, Mr. Sutherland has displayed much good taste. The happy combination of wood, water, and a varied surface, now present their respective and mingled beauties with the fullest effect. Nearly 1200 acres of demesne land are enclosed by walls, exclusive of an adjoining park, well stocked with deer.

MOUNTMELICK, situated in the northern part of the county, on the banks of the river Barrow, is one of the most considerable market and trading towns in this district. The woollen manufacture was long cultivated here, with great success, but has been declining for many years. The manufacture of cotton articles, and a branch of the iron manufacture, have also been long established in this town. The sect termed Quakers are numerous in Mountmelick, and it would appear that the commercial spirit which prevails is much indebted to the activity and industry of that unassuming people. One of the three great schools established in Ireland by the Quakers, is situated in this town.*

* The two other schools partaking of a public character, instituted by the Quakers in Ireland, are situated at Waterford and Lisburn. The following may be mentioned as the outlines of the plan adopted in the establishments at this place and at Waterford. Children of both sexes are

Mountmelick is a hamlet to the parish of Rosenallis. The chapel of ease is a spacious structure, lately rebuilt. This town is chiefly the property of the Marquess of Drogheda.

ROSENALLIS, a village of small consideration, is distant from Mountmelick three miles, towards the north-west, having its position at the foot of the Slieve-bloom mountain. In the vicinity are quarries of soft stone, composed of siliceous white sand, which is worked into chimney-pieces of an ordinary kind, and is much used in covings and hearths. The church is situated on rising ground, and is a respectable and well preserved building. The people termed Quakers have a large burial-ground near the village, which forms part of the estate of the Dunne family.

BRITTAS, the extensive and well-wooded demesne of Lieut. General Dunne, is, probably, the most ancient hereditary tenure possessed by any family in this county, with the exception of the estates belonging to the Earl of Upper Ossory. By the Dunne family were built the neighbouring fortress termed *Castlebrack*, and the seat called *Tinnahinch*; both of which are now in ruins. *Castlecuffe*, near Rosenallis, a harsh and dreary ruin, afforded a residence to the first Sir Charles Coote, whose name and character are noticed in our account of Mountrath.

There are, in this tract of country, several barrows, or tumuli, locally called "Danish forts, and moats." In the works of Sir J. Ware, edited by Harris, is the following account of the discovery of funeral remains beneath a tumulus, "on the lands of *Cloncelston*, five miles from Mount Melick." The discovery took place in the year 1734, in consequence of a farmer removing

here clothed, fed, and educated, for a very moderate annual remuneration; and, where the parents are unable to pay the small sum demanded, the expense is defrayed by the friends collectively assembled at the meeting of the district to which such poor children appertain. These schools are not regularly endowed, but are chiefly supported by annual subscriptions. Considerable donations and legacies, however, have occurred; and, when these amount to more than the sum of 10*l*. they are thrown into an accumulating fund, for the permanent benefit of the respective establishments.

stones from the mount, for domestic uses. "The upper stone of this monument was of an enormous size, and an irregular shape, not oblong, as tombstones generally are, but rather like a losenge in heraldry, or a diamond on the cards, in length full eight feet, and five feet four inches broad, eleven inches thick in some parts, nine and a half in others, and a small portion, at one end, but seven. It was supported by two side-stones, and two end-stones, the latter of which, as the rubbish was not cleared away, could not be measured; but the side-stones were five feet seven inches long, near five feet broad, and from eight to ten inches thick. The stones which compose this monument are a gray-grit, and appear to have been raised in the neighbouring mountains of Sliew Bloom; not is there any sign of inscription or date, or the mark of a tool upon it, but all is rough, mis-shapen, and unhewed. Closed up, within this coffin, was found the entire skeleton of a middle sized man, the head placed westward, and the feet to the east; the skull so rotten that it crumbled away with handling, the teeth white and sound, and the rest of the bones entire, though something decayed. It appeared to have been placed on the surface of the ground, and surrounded by a heap of large paving stones, such as an adjoining river supplies, placed together in a regular and circular form, taking up, in compass, 180 feet; which circle of stone rose no higher than a little above the upper edge of the monument, and was covered over with a staple of earth about a foot thick, and the entrance into it was at one corner, which was covered with a stone about two feet and a half square."*

The town of PORTARLINGTON, distant from Dublin thirty-six miles and three quarters, is situated on the banks of the Barrow, by the intersection of which river (here crossed by two bridges) it is divided between the Queen's and the King's Counties. This is a neat and well-built town, consisting of two principal streets, which meet in a square. Portarlinton has long been distinguished for the number and excellence of its schools, which have

* Ware's Antiqu. vol. ii. p. 149.

assisted in imparting education to many distinguished characters, among whom may be noticed the Marquess Wellesley. This place has little trade, except such as proceeds from local demands, but constitutes the residence of several families of high respectability, amongst which are those of Sir Walter Bodreux, and Sir C. Desvoeux, Barts. Many of the dwellings are, consequently, of ample proportions and an ornamental character. The buildings for public use are not numerous, but are of an eligible description. The market-house is a commodious structure, having in an upper story several rooms, in which are held the quarter-sessions, the seneschal's court, and well-attended monthly assemblies. The English church (which acts as a chapel of ease to the parish of Lea) is a handsome building, completed in the year 1810. Portarlinton formerly afforded an asylum to a colony of French refugees, persecuted at home on account of their religion, and here is still a church, in which divine service is performed in French, for the use of their numerous descendants. There are in this town two free-schools, respectively founded for instruction in the Latin and French languages, and endowed by Mons. Ruigney, the French Earl of Galway, in 1702.

Portarlinton is a borough town, returning one member to the imperial parliament; and is internally governed by a sovereign, two portreeves, and a recorder. This place gives the title of earl to the family of Dawson, which first settled in Ireland in the reign of William III. William Dawson, Esq. enjoyed several lucrative offices in that reign; and Ephraim, his son, purchased Portarlinton, and other estates in the Queen's county, and fixed his residence in the neighbourhood of this town. He represented the county in several successive parliaments; and William-Henry, son of that gentleman, was created Baron Dawson, of Dawson's Court, in 1770; and Viscount Carlow, in 1776. John, Viscount Carlow, was created Earl of Portarlinton in 1785.

The above town is situated in the parish of LEA, or LEY, the village of which name is distant from Portarlinton about three

miles, towards the east. This place, once of considerable importance, has now scarcely any claim on the examiner, except such as regards the ruinous vestiges of its former grandeur. The decaying church has little to gratify the architectural antiquary: but the remains of *Lea Castle* are interesting, in every point of view. It would appear to be probable that the original structure on this site was erected by Earl William, the marshal, to whom King Henry II. confirmed this portion of the inheritance of the countess his lady, daughter and heir of Earl Strongbow, who had wrested the territory of Lea from O'Dempsey, the Irish proprietor. One of the daughters and co-heiresses of Earl William, married William de Braose, Lord of Brecknock, and conveyed to that nobleman, as her dowry, the lordship of Leix, and with it the baronial castle of Lea. The daughter of de Braose espoused the Lord de Mortimer, and, in like manner, carried the same territory to the Mortimer family.

It is said that this castle was *burnt* by Edward Bruce, in his wild attempt to reduce Ireland in the year 1315. By such a term, however, as we have before suggested, historians usually mean to describe the interior and habitable parts only, of a military fabric as having been exposed to conflagration. This building occupied a dangerous position on the border of the pale; and was often the seat of contention, whilst Ireland virtually remained divided between different governing powers. It was for many ages possessed and defended by the Fitzgerald family. Although several times reduced by the O'Dempseys and the O'Mores, it was reckoned, in the year 1534, one of the six best castles belonging to the Earl of Kildare. In 1650, this fortress was dismantled by the parliamentarian forces, under colonels Huson and Reynolds; and marks of the havoc then committed, by the agency of gunpowder, are visible in confused masses of towers, broken arches, and other fragments of building, towards the western side.

The castle of Lea is situated on the banks of the river Barrow, and presents, even its present state of ruin, an object of great magnificence. It was protected by a fosse and double lines

of fortification. The buildings were irregularly constructed, and covered a large tract of ground.

To this castle formerly appertained a town of some repute, having the usual privileges of a market and fairs. The fortunes of the town of Lea rose and decayed with the neighbouring fortress. The last transaction of importance, as regards this place, occurred in 1648, when it was seized by the party in rebellion, but was speedily relieved by Lord Lisle. In the former market-place is an ash tree, of unusual growth, traditionally said to have been planted in commemoration of that event. The girth of this tree is twenty-nine feet, but, owing to the injuries inflicted by a storm, not many years past, this noble ash is now in a state of rapid decay. Lea Castle, with a considerable tract of the adjoining country, is held, by virtue of a lease in perpetuity, under the Earl of Portarlington, by George Evans, Esq. a younger branch of the noble family of Carbery.

EMO PARK (formerly termed *Dawson's Grove*), the seat of the Earl of Portarlington, is distant about three miles from Portarlington, towards the south-east. The mansion on this estate was commenced in the latter part of the eighteenth century, on an extensive plan, but has not been completed according to the original design. In its present state it is a commodious structure, but suffering under apparent indifference and neglect. The demesne comprises about 800 acres, and is well planted, and ornamented with a very extensive lake. It must be admitted that several circumstances are unfavourable to the preservation of a noble mansion, and the pursuit of extensive improvements, in this situation. The soil is penurious, beyond a hope of ready amelioration; and the surrounding country is, in most directions, entirely destitute of picturesque attraction. The same deficiencies of natural inducement apply, with few exceptions, to the whole vicinage of Portarlington; but numerous handsome dwellings of gentry are still found in this tract, greatly to the ornament of the country. The surface is here, in general, oppressively flat. Two eminences, however, are found in the neighbourhood of the

town. One of these, distant from Portarlinton about half a mile, is ornamented with a spire, which was built by Viscount Garlow, grandfather of the present earl, chiefly for the benevolent purpose of employing the poor in a winter of great severity. This hill is finely wooded, and intersected with agreeable walks. On the second elevation, termed *Windmill Hill*, is situated the new parish church of Lea, which is a commodious building, and constitutes a handsome object.

SKRABHALL, situated in the eastern part of this county, is a small but neat and agreeable town, watered by a branch of the river Barrow, over which is thrown a bridge of three arches. The streets are wide, and the houses in general of a respectable character. Rows of elms, and numerous scattered trees, impart to the whole town a rural and pleasing air. The site is low, but the lofty hills in the vicinity, and by which the town is, indeed, surrounded, are ornamented with several handsome seats and richly-cultivated demesnes. The parochial Church is a well-preserved building. In the vicinity of the town is a Charter-school, opened in 1788, for the reception of forty children. A monastery for Conventual Franciscans was founded at this place in the twelfth century, by one of the O'Mores, which, together with its appurtenances, was granted, in the year 1592, to Francis Cosbye, and his heirs, at the annual rent of 17*l*. 6*s*. 3*d*. Irish money; they, also, undertaking to find yearly nine English horsemen. In the year 1609, a new grant of these lands was made to Richard, brother of Alexander Cosby, together with the townland, or lordship, of Pinnole.

SKRABHALL HOUSE, the modern and improved residence of the Cosby family, is a commodious and eligible mansion, surrounded by a demesne finely irregular in surface, and of considerable beauty, although the pleasure-grounds are not of great extent. On this demesne formerly stood one of the strongest castles of the O'Mores, much of whose property, together with their principal seat, was granted to the respectable family of Cosby.*

* We present the following anecdote, concerning this property, on the authority of Sir Charles Coote, editor of the Statistical Survey of the

In the immediate vicinity of the town of Stradbully must also be noticed *Brockley Park*, a fine seat formerly occupied by the Earl of Raden.

We now enter upon a tract of country (namely the BARONY OF BALLYADAMS) concerning which we possess an amplitude of original information, that induces us to expatiate at greater length than was readily practicable in regard to several districts lately noticed.

On leaving the town of Athy, situated on the eastern side of the river Barrow, and in the county of Kildare, we find a line of road, recently completed, which leads through the Queen's county to Castle-Comer, in the county of Kilkenny. This road is on a scale equal to the best work of the kind in England. It cannot, however, boast of any attractive natural scenery, or artificial objects, for the first three miles of its progress.

Queen's County.—“ An Irish chief, envying that the estates of the O'Mores should have been transferred to English adventurers, sent the Cosbys a haughty message, that he on a certain day would cross the bridge of Stradbully with his soldiers, and demanded for that purpose a pass; which was the reputed form of a challenge in those times. To allow it would be acknowledging the inferiority of the Cosbys, and a mark of pusillanimity which never was the characteristic of that race. They, of course, prepared to give the Irish battle, and were ranged to dispute the pass with the enemy, who came in great numbers at the appointed time. The issue of the battle was long doubtful, which was fought with great bravery and perseverance; and at many times each party seemed certain of success. Victory at length determined in favour of the Cosbys; but amongst the brave men who fell that day were included the chiefs on both sides. With Cosby, also fell his brother, the joint possessor of the estate; and each had the benefit of survivorship. Their deaths were beheld by their ladies from a window in the castle, which overlooked the scene; and one of them, at the instant her husband was killed, called out to other witnesses, ‘ Remember! my husband did not fall first, consequently the estate descended to him, and is now the property of my eldest son;’ which remarkable saying could not be forgot in the presence of so many witnesses, and determined the point in favour of the child of this lady, whose wary prudence, and unprecedented resolution, shewed a presence of mind as strong and superior to her sex, as her hardness of heart and want of tenderness were unbecoming of it.”—Stat. Survey of the Queen's Co. pp. 172—3.

Colonel Weldon's judicious improvements at Kilmacorney, on the south, are too remote to form a distinguishable feature, and the village of Ballylinan, through which it passes, possesses little claim to attention.* Towards the north of this village, the Rev. Arthur Weldon's† house and plantations, termed *Rakis*, may be seen; and beyond that place, on the Maryborough-road, is situated *Ballyadams Castle*. The ruins of the embattled walls, projecting towers, and elevated keep of this ancient edifice, embosomed in venerable trees, produce an interesting and highly picturesque effect. On the opposite hill are the ruins of *Ballyadams Church*, containing the monument, with the full-sized recumbent effigies, of *Robert Bowen, Esq.* of Ballyadams Castle, and his wife, *Alice Harpole*, of Shrule Castle. The head of one of these figures has been broken off; the other has been thrown on the ground, where it lies at present in an uninjured state. Near these ruins are two very ancient wells, in a bed of solid lime stone, of a cylindrical form, and about fifteen inches in diameter. The depth of the one exceeds three feet, while that of the other is less than two. Medicinal qualities are attributed to these wells, of which, in the opinion of the peasantry, St. Patrick was the founder and patron; and, under an impression of their efficacy in the cure of head aches and disorders in the eyes, they are occasionally resorted to for relief. To the north of Ballyadams Castle, and on the Maryborough road, lies

Sourvillas, a residence of the late Richard Grace, of Boley, Esq. M.P. whose name must not be mentioned without the humble tribute of our admiration.—This enlightened, benevolent,

* In the neighbourhood of Ballylinan there was dug up, by some peasants, in 1786, an earthen urn, containing a great number of small silver coins, several of which are deposited in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin. The white of the coins are believed to bear reference to Irish monarchs and chiefs; between the years 800 and 900.—For further particulars see Camden's *Britannia*, Gough's Edit. Notes to Queen's Co. and Transacts. of R. J. A. vol. i.

† This gentleman, who enjoys, greatly to the benefit of his parishioners, the valuable rectory of Kilnabbin, is of the earliest established family now extant in this district. The Weldons are reputed to have settled here,

and truly valuable man died here, at the early age of forty. His quickness of parts, clearness of intellect, tenacious memory and comprehensive understanding, were well-known to society; and the indefatigable industry and unwearied application by which he must, even in his very infancy, have improved the talents nature had with kind profusion bestowed upon him, might constitute a subject of instruction as well as of applause. Previous to the 32nd year of his age (1782) he had visited France, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany, and could speak their several languages easily and correctly. Spain, Hungary, Turkey and Greece were also within the range of his travels. Latin was to him as a living language, fully understood and fluently uttered; and he was classically acquainted with Greek and Hebrew. His love of the sciences and of the fine arts was strongly exemplified, either by his exact possession of their several principles, or by his power of mechanical execution; and his knowledge of general history, and in particular of the British laws and constitution, was practical and extensive. If these endowments were the characteristics of an enlightened mind, so were every act and word of Mr. Grace the genuine and rational marks of a benevolent heart. To the poor, or the oppressed, man, he was a certain and efficient friend. For though, by adverse combinations, he failed on two contested elections to represent this county in parliament, the popularity he possessed was as extensive and enthusiastic as it was merited. Mr. Grace married Jane, daughter of the Honourable John Evans, of Bulgaden Hall, a younger son of George Lord Carbery, by whom he had issue Sir William Grace, Bart. Sheffield Grace, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq. F. S. A. and Capt. Percy Grace, R. N.

From the village of Ballylinan, already mentioned, the conspicuous and elevated situation of ~~Grace's~~ ~~manor~~ ~~woods~~ constitutes an admirable feature in the neighbouring scenery. Here they appear immediately in front, while the eye penetrates the rich and improved

and about Athy, in the beginning of the reign of James I.; which is above a century preceding the removal of the Ballylinan family of Grace from the county of Kilkenny to this neighbourhood.

roses, violets and other wild flowers, impart a delicious fragrance to the air during the summer months; while the frequent masses of evergreen perennials and animating verdure throughout the winter. The natural springs and covered drains in the woods supply a piece of water at the foot of this hill, embosomed in rows of noble beech, elm, and lime trees. The south view combines much luxuriance and variety of scenery. It extends over the church and hamlet of Castletown, the demesne of Maidenhead, and along the Bliveenary hills, taking in the trees and pinnacles of the *Grave-Monument* at *Arles*, and several villas on the borders of the county of Carlow. The east view is that of a rich but flat and uninteresting country, bounded by the Wicklow mountains. This dull expanse of scenery is, however, happily varied towards the north, by the neighbouring church of Rathasock, the old castle of Milltown, the wooded grounds of Inch House, and the Stradbally hills. A flourishing plantation, consisting of various evergreens, forest and ornamental trees, separates the undulating lawn of this front from the more distant part of the demesne.

Sir Charles Coote's remark, already quoted, respecting the "old fashioned improvements" of this place, has entirely ceased to be applicable. The straight avenues of oak, beech, and elm, no longer offend the eye of taste. The formal fish ponds, or canals, have been filled up, and numerous hedges levelled. Mr. Sutherland has here displayed great judgment, and achieved a very difficult task, in altering and embellishing these grounds, without injuriously divesting them of the old timber; and it must be observed, in justice to that gentleman, that some of the most splendid places in the kingdom acknowledge him for their founder or reformer.

A remarkably distinct and loud echo is returned, sixty yards in a second, from the walls on the west front of the house; but at the distance of one hundred and eighty yards, in the same direction, it is returned double in the space of two seconds. It will be recollected that, according to Mr. Boyle, the more direct motion of sound travels at the rate of four hundred yards in a second.

Various kinds of shell-like stones have been found in this neighbourhood: some of these fossils are pieces of cornel, cockle,

and oyster shells. Stones, also, of a strong iron quality, abound in a division of the demesne, called from time immemorial, the "iron park;" but there is, at present, no iron mine on this estate, as mentioned in the survey of the Queen's County. There is, however, a valuable coal mine, consisting of nine pits, denominated the "Wolf Hill Colliery;" and a fine flag quarry is situated on the adjoining townland of Boley, (the cow's pasture) belonging to Sir William Grace, Bart. These flags, which have been frequently raised thirteen feet in length by six in breadth, were formerly exported to Dublin in considerable quantities; but the discovery of similar quarries near Carlow, whence the river Barrow and the grand canal convey them on the north to Dublin, and on the south to Waterford, without any expense of land carriage, has occasioned the Boley-quarries to be abandoned.

About one quarter of a mile to the north of these flag-quarries, on the Marquess of Lansdown's estate of Laggaghcurragh, (the woody glens) is a mutilated cromlech. The fall of the great, or covering, slab is to the west, in which direction it has been brought nearly to the ground by the wanton removal of its upright stone, or supporter, in the memory of people still living. On the other sides the original supporters remain standing, and consist of five stones, about four and a half feet in height, set edge ways like pillars. The covering slab measures eight and a half feet from north to south, seven feet from east to west, and is nearly two feet in thickness. This cromlech is denominated by the peasantry "Mansheara tarragh-leagh" (the grey fold's, or asses' manger.)

If longevity indicate a salubrious atmosphere, this hilly country may advance some claim to the possession of that blessing. Notwithstanding the habitual privations of comfort, and the frequent want of even the necessities of life, the peasantry generally attain a good old age. Three persons in this immediate neighbourhood have recently died at more than 90 years of age, and one at the age of 99. It may be here remarked that the age of the Countess of Desmond, which Lord Bacon states to have been 140, has been surpassed by that of Mrs. Eccleston, of Philipstown, in the adjoining county, who died at the age of 143.

The monastic ruins of *Rathasbuck*, (the Bishop's fort,* on the estate of Sir William Grace, Bart. formerly presented an interesting object from the house of Gracefield. Its ivy-mantled walls, high belfry, and large eastern window, were conspicuous in the scenery at the distance of about half a mile to the north. From the materials of these ruins, the adjoining church of Rathasbuck parish has been lately erected, which, in common with most buildings of the kind in this country, wants the characteristic appendage of a comfortable vicarage house. In the topographical collections of Sheffield Grace, Esq. F. S. A., a faithful representation of these very ancient remains, as they appeared previous to 1813, is preserved. Their Gothic simplicity, and apparent antiquity, with the broken outline of the monastery walls, present a happy subject for the pencil.

The monastery was apparently on a small and humble scale, and was probably only a cell, subordinate to the more considerable religious establishment of Old-Court, situated on the towaland of Clonpierce, about two miles from hence. To the family of O'More, princes of Leix, the foundation of this structure, and of that last mentioned, are ascribed. At the distance of about 150 yards to the south-west of these ruins are the remains of a Rath, or Fort, the appellation of which evidently assists in forming the name of this parish, and the adjunct of "Asbuck" (Bishop) is strongly indicative of primordial importance. Under the site of buildings connected with the former church, three vaulted chambers continued, until the year 1813, in perfect preservation, in one of which was a well of remarkably fine spring water. In these vaults were found, some few years back, two sumptuous door keys, with curiously constructed wards and handles, together with small-shaped drinking vessels, and some coins. In the adjoining fields have, likewise, been discovered several relics of antiquity, includ-

* By inquisition taken at Maryborough, 13th October, 1687, for the uniting and dividing of parishes, &c. it appeared that the parish of Rathasbuck had nine town lands; was an entire rectory, and worth £33. per annum in 1640; that it still had a church, though no minister; was worth £15. per annum; and that the lord protector was the patron.

ing many pieces of ancient coin,* a short dagger, or sword, of brass, and a pin, five inches long, with a chased brist, of the same metal, adorned with four yellow stones. These ornamented brooches were formerly used for fastening the collar of the loose cloak, mantle, or toga, of the ancient Irish. It may also be remarked that a tract of land, consisting of about four acres, on the north and south sides of the church, have been long remarkable for containing vast quantities of human bones. A fond tradition thus accounts for the circumstance of these traces of mortality lying over an considerable an extent of surface. When the

* Viz. a silver coin of King Edward I. (1304) which bears the king's head crowned, but without a sceptre, and circumscribed "Edw. R. Angl. Dns. Hib." (Dominus Hiberniæ) and on the reverse a cross between twelve round dots, circumscribed "Civitas Dublinie." Money, at this period, bore the names of the kings in which it was coined, as noticed in Stow's quotation of the dispatch of Robert le Brun,

"On the king's side was his head, and his name was written,
On the cross side the city where it was smitten."

A silver coin of Edward IV. (1470) with the arms of France and England quartered by a cross, and circumscribed "Rex. Angli, et Francie;" and on the reverse three crowns, with the circumscription "Dominus Hibernie." Several silver coins of Queen Mary, with her head crowned, and circumscribed "Mariæ D. G. Ang. Fra. et Hib. Regina;" and on the reverse a harp crowned, between the letters "M." and "R." circumscribed "Vastina Temporis, Filia. M.D.L.III." A number of the metal shillings and half-crowns of King James II. with the king's head, circumscribed "Jacobus II. Dei Gratia;" and on the reverse a crown and two sceptres between the letters "J. R." circumscribed "Mag. Br. Fra. et Hib. Rex. 1689." The nominal value of these metal coins is marked in Roman figures above the crown, and the month of August underneath. At *Milltown Castle*, distant about a quarter of a mile to the south of the church, were also found several spear heads, an axe head, and some large and small rings of brass, together with a rudely shaped antique pot of mixed metal.—It may be here noticed that the Irish language is, in this neighbourhood, rapidly falling into disuse. Few men under the age of 40 now understand it; but, among the older peasantry, numerous traditional ballads, on local and popular subjects, still survive. Many of these have been transcribed by the direction of Mr. Sheffield Grace from their oral sources, and some of them are far from being destitute of poetical merit.

"great plague" raged in this country, and all human effort to arrest its fury was unavailing, the monastic boundaries of Rath-abuck offered a secure asylum to the despairing people. Whoever took refuge within these holy limits escaped contagion; for such was the unalterable virtue of the place, that those who arrived there sick, died in a few hours, without spreading the infection, and were buried on the spot where they breathed their last. Several thousands of people are said to have been interred here at that time, and the numerous temporary habitations erected by the survivors, suddenly converted these sequestered scenes of religious meditation into the resemblance of a large and populous town. The origin of this tradition cannot, perhaps, be satisfactorily developed: but it is a singular fact that, on levelling a long earthen bank, of considerable thickness, and covered with low scrubby underwood, forty-two fire places were found in a line, at the distance of about twenty feet asunder. They were chiefly constructed of small flat brick, and had no appearance of being designed for grates.

The *Castle of Miltown (Ballyvaillig)* and *Loch-Henae*, its opposite neighbors on the western hills, are also situated on the estate of Sir William Grace. We are not enabled to ascertain the origin of the former building, but its antiquity is evidently great, and quite beyond the reach of local document or tradition. One square tower constitutes the principal remains of this structure, to which is attached a modern dwelling house. Most of the outworks, consisting of walls and earthen mounds, are now levelled, whilst stagnant fish-ponds occupy the site of the surrounding fosse. The situation of this castle would appear to have been calculated for domestic comfort, rather than for defensive warfare. The building is placed by the side of a shallow rivulet, and is well sheltered by hills in every direction, except towards the south.

Dundrom (the *back fort*) is the name of a very considerable Dun, or Rath,* which occupies the highest point of the Boley

* We have already had occasion to observe that the words *Dun* and *Rath* are both used in Ireland, to signify fortified places, constructed be-

hills, on the estate of Sir William Grace, contiguous to the woods of Gracefield. This vast earthen mound measures 130 yards in diameter, on the summit, which is enclosed by a high bank. The surrounding fosse is twenty feet wide at bottom, and presents an opposing declivity of nearly thirty feet. A well of fine water, which is within the enclosure on the top, is neither affected by the summer's drought or the winter's rain, and affords a permanent supply of water; whilst the lower ground, immediately adjoining, is wholly destitute of this necessary element.—A metal vessel, containing several short earthen pipes for smoking, has been lately found here. Such pipes are often found in various parts of Ireland, and are commonly termed Danish pipes. A more valuable discovery was also recently made, in the form of a piece of pure gold, which was found in the fosse by a peasant, who sold it at Carlow for the sum of 17*l*.

Dundrom commands a most extensive and interesting prospect. The Stradbally hills, the town, slender tower, and verdant curragh of Kildare; the cloud-capt Lugnacullia (the eagle's nest) and other humbler links of the Wicklow mountains, "arrayed in many a dun and purple-streak"; the town of Carlow, sheltered by its richly-wooded back ground; the undulating chain of the Slievemargy hills, with Mount Leinster's lofty head towering from behind, are the boundaries of the magnificent panorama here presented. A great portion of the County of Kildare, and of the Queen's County, appears from hence, as a map spread within this strongly marked outline. The improved demesnes, occasional woods along the windings of the river Barrow, towns, villages, churches, monastic and castle ruins, with corn fields and meadows of exuberant fertility, and numerous farm houses, with their flocks and herds, and the various active objects of rural life, unite in giving an animation to the picture that is highly gratifying. On the south a high projecting point of the Slievemargy hills appears from hence, as if

fore the arts of masonry and castellation were adopted. In this, and many other parts of the country, the term of *Dun* is applied to fortifications of superior magnitude, whilst by the word *Rath* is understood works of a similar character, on a scale comparatively diminutive.

crowned with the venerable trees that surround the Grace mausoleum. The commanding elevation of Dundrom, and its contiguity to Gracefield woods, induced a party of the rebels, in 1798, to occupy it with one of their rude encampments.

This ancient hill-fortress, in common with most similar vestiges of remote times in Ireland, is the scene of a very poetical but fantastic degree of popular superstition, in regard to the existence of fairies. Even in fairy repute there are gradations; and Dundrom, as relates to this neighbourhood, may be termed the high court of the elfin train. The operations of these tiny people in the games of foot ball, hurling, and other rural amusements, are often, according to the report of old and young, heard to proceed from thence. Some are known to be on horseback, and others running round a green circle.* Few peasants will venture on exciting the malicious enmity of these sprites, by disturbing their gambols with passing over this place after nightfall. The supposed identity of the fairies with the fallen angels, and their habitual malevolence, are as inconsistent with the appellation of "Good People," here given to them, as the *Dásine Shi*, or Men of Peace, of the Highlanders, merit the character of peaceable. Any intrusion on their rights of time or place is, sooner or later, punished by the death of cattle, and poultry, the overthrow of hay and corn stacks, the fracture of a limb, and often by the death of the unintentional offender. It is not less generally asserted than fully believed, that a child was carried off, and kept a year and a day, for accidentally intruding upon their midnight amusements:

"It was between the night and day,
When the fairy king has power,
That he sunk down in a sinful fray,
And, 'twixt life and death, was snatched away,
To the joyless elfin tower."
— Scott's *Lady of the Lake*, canto iv. stanza xv.

* These fairy circles are more common in countries subject to great storms of thunder and lightning, than in Ireland. It is well known that they are supposed to be occasioned by the lightning, which, like all other fires, moves round, and burns more in the extremities than in the middle.

In the small but pleasing village of *Arles*, on the road between Gracefield and Carlow, is a funereal edifice, seated "amidst the grove that crowns the tufted hill," which requires attentive notice, as well on account of the architectural taste there displayed, as the distinguished interest of the family to whose honour it is devoted. —This structure has been re-erected on the site of a decayed building, appropriated to the same grateful purpose. Strength, utility, and elegance, are its obvious characteristics. The whole fabric is composed of cut stone. It contains two apartments, both arched, the lower being for the repository of the dead, and the upper for the reception of commemorative mural monuments. The roof is wholly composed of stone, resting on the high pointed arch of the upper, or monumental, chamber, and imbedded in Roman cement. This unique feature in modern architecture is designed in imitation of St. Douglough's Church, described in our notice of the county of Dublin. An admirable correctness of taste is evinced in the simple and unostentatious order of the pointed style adopted in this building; and the effect of the interior is remarkably chaste, solemn, and consequently appropriate. Each of the exterior flanking walls contains two of the old marble monuments of the Grace family; and over the entrance to the burial vault is placed a tablet of Kilkenny marble, with the following inscription:

ΟΥΚ ΑΦΑΝΗΣ ΓΕΝΕΗ. ΚΡΑΤΕΣΘΙ. ΤΗΔ' ἸΕΡΟΝ. ΤΙΝΟΝ.
ΚΟΙΜΟΝΤΑΙ. ὉΝΗΣΕΚΕΙΝ. ΜΗ. ΛΕΓΕ. ΤΟΥΤΕ. ΑΓΑΘΟΥΤΕ.*

HOC SEPULCRUM
ALICIA KAVANAGH, FILIA MICHAELIS GRACE DE GRACE-
FIELD, ARM.
GULIELMUS GRACE BARONETTUS,
ET FRATRES EJUS,
SHEFFIELDUS, JURIS CONSULTUS,
PERCIUS, REGLE CLASSIS PRÆFECTUS,

* Within these walls in sacred dust recline,
The long, long train of Grace's noble line
They are not dead—though silent here they lie.
How can the noble and the virtuous die?

PONI CURAVERUNT
 A. D. MDCCCXVIII
 SIBI POSTERISQUE:
 QUO LOCO FUIT OLIM AUSTRALIS ALA ODIS ARLESIANÆ
 AB OLIVERIO GRACE DE SHANGANAGH, SIVE GRACEFIELD,
 ARMIG:
 ANNO SALUTIS MDCLXXXVII ÆDIFICATA,
 JAMDIU VETUSTATE COLLAPSA,
 UNA CUM SEPULCRIS FAMILIÆ GRACEFIELDIANÆ
 IBI EXTRUCTIS.
 HIC, UBI LAPSA JACENT GENTIS MONUMENTA VETUSTÆ,
 IN DOMINOSQUE RUUNT BUSTA CADUCA SUOS;
 AUSPICIIIS FAUSTIS ET SPE MELIORE, SEPULCRUM
 JAM REFICIT FRATRUM CONSOCIATUS AMOR.
 SIT SACRUM PIETATIS OPUS!—SERVETUR ET IPSIS
 MORTE OBITÆ, PROAVIS QUAM TRIBUERE, QUIES. S. G.

The following epitaph on Mary, wife of the first Michael Grace, of Gracefield, describes an amiable character in agreeable terms:

HERE
 LYETH THE BODY OF
 MRS. MARY GRACE,
 LATE WIFE OF
 MICHAEL GRACE, ESQ.
 SHE WAS
 RELIGIOUS WITHOUT OSTENTATION,
 PIOUS WITHOUT HYPOCRISY,
 FRIENDLY WITHOUT FLATTERY;
 TO THE DISTRESSED
 A SUPPORT,
 TO THE ORPHANS, A MOTHER:
 IN HER LIFE ATTENDED WITH MANY BLESSINGS,
 HER DEATH WITH MANY TEARS.

The origin of the Grace family is traced to a period extremely remote, and it exhibits, in its earliest stages, so very curious and authentic an illustration of the frequent, but systematic, variations of surnames, as to render the following genealogical diagram instructive as well as interesting:

Other de Windsor, a descendant of the Dukes of Tuscany, and a Baron of England, 16 of Edward the Confessor, 1057.

Walter Fitz Other de Windsor, Governor of Windsor Castle, at the General Survey of the Conqueror in 1078.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 William Fitz Walter de Windsor, Governor of Windsor Castle,—ancestor to the Family of Windsor, Earls of Plymouth.</p> | <p>2 Gerald Fitz Walter, surnamed de Carew, Governor of the County and Castle of Pembroke, and, <i>jura uxoris</i>, Lord of Carew.</p> |
| <p>1 William Fitz Gerald de Carew, Lord of Carew, accompanied his 2d. son Raymond to Ireland, but died at Carew Castle in 1173.</p> | <p>2 Maurice Fitzgerald, an adventurer to Ireland in 1171; Lord of Offaley, &c.—ancestor to the Families of Fitz Gerald, Dukes of Leinster, &c. of Mackenzie, Earls of Seaforth, &c. and of Fitz Gibbon, Earls of Clare, &c.</p> |
| <p>1 Odo Fitz William de Carew, Lord of Carew,—ancestor to the Family of Carew, Earl of Tonnage, &c.</p> | <p>2 Raymond Fitz William, surnamed Le Gros, accompanied Richard de Clare, surnamed Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, to Ireland. Was Viceroy of that Kingdom in 1177, and, <i>jura uxoris</i>, Lord of Loretton and Grace's Country.</p> <p>3 William Filius Willielme Ffili Gerald,—ancestor to the Family of Gerard, Earls of Macclesfield, &c.</p> |
| <p>1 William Fitz Raymond le Gros,—ancestor to the Family of Grace, Barons of Courtstown, and Lords of Grace's Country.</p> | <p>2 Maurice Fitz Raymond—ancestor to the Family of Fitz Maurice, Earls of Kerry and Marquesses of Lansdown.</p> |

From William Fitz Raymond* descended Baron Almaric Gras, of Courtstown, and lord of Grace's Country; who, by command of King Richard II. dated 23rd of December, 1385, married, "*for the better preservation of the peace of the county of Kilkenny,*" Tibina, daughter of O'Meagher, the powerful prince, or dynast, of Ikerrin. He was buried in St. John's Abbey, at Kilkenny, and was succeeded by John Gras, Baron of Courtstown, and custos pacis of Kilkenny, in 1410. Anselm Gras, baron John's successor, was appointed, 23rd of June, 1421, sheriff of the county of Kilkenny, during the king's pleasure. He married Alicia, daughter of Sir James Morres, lord of Lateragh, and had issue Oliver *ny Feioig* (the bearded) Baron of Courtstown, a powerful and distinguished man of his time. By his wife, Ellen, daughter of O'More, prince, or dynast, of Leix, he had Baron John Gras Fitz Oliver, his successor; Oliver Gras Fitz Oliver, the last lord abbot of Jerpoint, county of Kilkenny; and James Gras Fitz Oliver, of Corristown Castle. John Gras, Baron of Courtstown, (denominated by the Irish AN CAIOS JARAIN, or the iron belted) married Catharine, daughter of Pierce Poer, Lord of Curraghmore; and is said to have had twenty children, of whom the eldest was Baron John Gras Fitz John, † from whom the succeeding barons of Courtstown and lords of Grace's Country, were descended; and the second was Sir Oliver Grace, of Legan and Ballylinch Castles, in the county of Kilkenny, and of Carney Castle, in the county of Tipperary.

On the 28th of September, 1563, Queen Elizabeth granted to

* The ensuing genealogical account of a branch of the Grace family, long of great power in the county of Kilkenny, is carried to a greater extent than is strictly consistent with the nature of our work; but is presented from the united motives which cause our deviating; in some few similar instances, from the projected outlines of our design.—The family concerning which it treats, is of unusual interest with the investigator of this part of Ireland; and the genealogical detail affords many valuable particulars of topographical information.

† The richly sculptured tomb of marble, erected to this Baron of Courtstown's memory, is still standing between the first and second pillars at the eastern extremity of the south side of the nave of the Cathedral of Kilkenny, and is noticed in our account of that church.

Sir Oliver Grace the site, estates, and livings in the counties of Tipperary and Kilkenny, the King's County, and elsewhere, of the dissolved Priory of St. John, near Nenagh. He was returned to parliament for the county of Tipperary, on the 12th of January, 1559, and was constituted, together with the Earl of Ormonde, Viscount Mountgarrett, and Lord Dunboyne, commissioner of array, and keeper of the peace, of the counties of Kilkenny and Tipperary. *The Castles of Legin and Carney were erected by him*, but his widow, who died on the 2nd of December, 1605, and was buried near him in Jerpoint Abbey, is reputed to have founded, or to have finished, the more spacious edifice of *Ballylinch*, on the banks of the river Nore. He married Mary, sister of Maurice Fitz Gerald, Lord Viscount Decies, and eldest daughter of Sir Gerald Fitz Gerald, of Decies, (great grandson of James, seventh Earl of Desmond) by Ellice, fourth daughter of Pierce Butler, eighth Earl of Ormonde; and had issue, Gerald Grace, of Ballylinch and Legan Castles, who, together with Sir William Hartpole, of Shrute Castle, and John Grace, of Aghaviller Castle, obtained a patent of pardon from Queen Elizabeth, dated 14th of December, 1597, for all offences against the state. He deceased on the 4th of March, 1618, and was buried at Jerpoint Abbey, having married Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Hartpole, of Shrute Castle, and governor of the county, town, and castle of Carlow; who died on the 11th of February, 1619, and was also interred at Jerpoint. By this lady he had issue, Oliver Grace, of Ballylinch, &c. who died on the 27th of August, 1626; as appears by the *Inquisition post mortem* taken at Thomastown, on the 9th of October following, and was buried at Jerpoint Abbey, having married Margaret, daughter of Edmund Butler, second Lord Viscount Mountgarrett, by his wife Grany, daughter of Barnaby Fitz Patrick, first Lord Upper Ossory. He had issue Gerald Grace, of Ballylinch, &c. a minor, aged 13 at his father's death. The Court of Wards and Liveries granted his wardship, for the fine of 500*l*, on the 12th of December, 1626, to Sir Thomas Loftus, of Killyan, whose wife, Ellen Hartpole, of Shrute, was sister to his paternal grandmother. On the 16th of February, 1634, he had a special livery of his in-

heritance, for the fine of 70*l*. and in 1639, his estates were entailed on the several male heirs of his grandfather, by virtue of the commission for the remedy of defective titles. During the parliamentary war he commanded a corps in the army of his uncle, the Lord Mountgarrett, and was slain at the battle of Kilrush, on the 15th of April, 1642. He married Ellen, eldest daughter of Edmund Butler, third Lord Dunboyne, by his wife Margaret, daughter and heir to Thomas Butler, fourth Lord Cahier. Margaret Butler, the only child of James, fourth Lord Dunboyne, dying without issue, this Ellen's descendants became, thereby, representatives of the third Lord Dunboyne, and of the fourth Lord Cahier, as also of the second Lord Upper Ossory, by the marriage of her great grandfather, James, second Lord Dunboyne, with Margaret, daughter and sole heir to Sir Barnaby Fitz Patrick, second Lord Upper Ossory. Gerald Grace had issue by this marriage John, who died without issue, and William, denominated of Ballylinch, but who resided at Barrowmount, a seat of the Lord Galmoy, in the county of Kilkenny, the great patrimony of his family being seized upon by the Commonwealth during the minority of his elder brother John, on account of his father's adherence to the royal cause.

These vast estates were thus confiscated by Oliver Cromwell, who distributed them among his followers. Ballylinch Castle was granted to Captain John Joyner, who conveyed it to his brother-in-law, colonel Daniel Redman, whose eldest daughter and co-heir, Eleanor Redman, thus heiress of Ballylinch, marrying James Butler, third Viscount Ikerrine, carried it into that family, and it has been ever since the chief seat of her descendants, the Earls of Carrick. In 1661, William Grace signed the celebrated protestation and remonstrance of the Catholic nobility and principal gentry of Ireland, to King Charles II. By his will, dated 10th of January, 1669, he desires himself to be interred "among his ancestors in the Abbey of Jerpoint." He married Eleanor, sister of Edward Butler, second Lord Viscount Galmoy, and daughter of the Honourable Pierce Butler, by Margaret, daughter of Nicholas, first Lord Viscount Netterville. William Grace had issue by this marriage, Oliver, of Shanganagh, in the Queen's County, his

successor, and John, who married Anne, the daughter and heir of John Grace, of Thomastown, and had issue an only child, Elizabeth Grace, who died at Bath in 1780, and was buried at Keinsnam Abbey, having married Richard Gamon, of Datchworthbury, county of Herts, who died in London, 1786, and was also buried at Keinsnam, leaving issue Sir Richard Gamon, and Anna Eliza Gamon, married, in 1778, to James Brydges, third Duke of Chandos, whose only daughter, Lady Anna Eliza, married Richard Grenville, Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. Sir Richard Gamon, Bart. M. P. for Winchester, was created a baronet of England, 11th of April, 1795, with remainder to Richard Grace, of Boley, Esq. M. P. He married Lady Amelia Murray, eldest daughter of John, third Duke of Athol, who died October 14th 1806, and deceasing himself on the 8th of April, 1818, and leaving an only daughter, Charlotte Amelia Gamon, the baronetage devolved upon Sir William Grace, the eldest son of Richard Grace, agreeable to the limitation of the patent above mentioned.

Oliver Grace, of Shanganagh, (now Gracefield) in the Queen's County, the eldest son of William Grace, of Ballylinch, was appointed, in 1689, chief remembrancer of the Irish exchequer, and a member of King James's privy council; and was chosen as the representative in Parliament of the borough of Ballynakill, in the Queen's County. He received a general pardon for his adherence to King James II. and for all other offences against the state, dated the 21st of May, 1696; and dying on the 8th of June, 1708, aged 47, was buried in the south wing of Arles Church, (or Grace's chapel) of which he was the founder. He married Elizabeth,* (who re-married with Edmund Butler, sixth Lord Viscount Mountgarrett) the only surviving child of John Bryan, of Bawnmore, by

* All the descendants of Oliver Grace, by his wife, Elizabeth Bryan, are, as founder's kin, entitled to a preference in the election of Fellows at All Souls' College, Oxford. In the "*Stemmata Chickleana*," No. 91, their descent may be deduced, through the families of Walsh, Sheffield, Vere, Trussel, and Kene, from Agnes Chichele, the grand daughter of William Chichele, who was youngest brother of Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, and founder of that College, temp. Henry VI.

his second wife, Ursula, second daughter and eventual co-heir to Walter Walsh, of Castle Hoel, by his wife, Magdalen Sheffield, sister of Edmund Sheffield, second Earl of Mulgrave, and grand aunt, and eventual sole heir, to Edmund Sheffield, second Duke of Buckingham and Normanby. Oliver Grace had, among other issue by this marriage, Michael of Gracefield, his successor, and Robert, married to Catharine, only child of Sheffield Grace, of the Courtstown family, by his wife, Elizabeth, Dowager Viscountess Dillon, by whom he had issue Sir Edmund Grace, a knight of Malta, living in 1778.*

* In confirmation of the fact of Sir Edmund Grace's existence in 1778, the following curious circumstance may be mentioned: Oliver Grace, of Gracefield, was residing at Kilkenny, when his relative, the knight of Malta, came to Ireland to make him a visit. The knight attended the principal Catholic Chapel of that city, on the Sunday, when, at a certain part of the ceremony, he suddenly (in compliance with the custom of his order) drew his sword from the scabbard, and raised the naked blade aloft, to the indescribable dismay of a crowded congregation, who, supposing him to be mad, rushed precipitately from the chapel. After a short interval he replaced his sword, the audience returned, and divine worship was recommenced. Sir Edmund Grace was induced to devote himself to a foreign service by the disqualifying influence of the penal code: an influence very strikingly evinced in the ecclesiastical, civil, and military connection of this family with the state, during the last century. Oliver Grace, lord abbot of Jerpoint, an ecclesiastical peer of parliament, temp. Henry VIII. was the last acknowledged descendant it possessed in holy orders. The county of Kilkenny had been represented by Barons of Courtstown in the parliaments of 1559, 1568, 1613, 1634, and 1689. In the last-named parliament there were four sitting members of this family; since which period the name does not appear on the parliamentary rolls till that of the late Richard Grace, of Boley, occurs in 1792. Oliver Grace, of Gracefield, M. P. who died in 1708, was the last who held a civil official situation. In 1689, he was chief remembrancer of the exchequer, an office now enjoyed by the Marquess Wellesley. The same fact may be observed in the records of the military department. Colonel Richard Grace, who commanded at Athlone for King James, against the besieging armies of Generals Douglass and De Ginkle, and the Baron of Courtstown, who raised and equipped a regiment of foot and a troop of horse for the same sovereign, are the last names of this family that can boast of being permitted to claim the title of a British soldier.

Michael Grace, of Gracefield, by the death of Edmand, the last Duke of Bucks, and of Margaret and Magdalen Walsh, succeeded to the undivided real estates in the counties of Middlesex, Sussex, and York, of the Sheffield family, as heir to his great grand-mother, the above-mentioned Magdalen Sheffield, who was great aunt and sole heir to the last Duke of Bucks, in which he was confirmed by the judicial decree of the lord chancellor Northington. He died on the 19th of February, 1760, aged 78, and was buried in Grace's Chapel, at Arles, having married Mary, daughter of John Galway, of Lota, by Elizabeth, his wife, eldest sister of Sir John Meade, Bart. whose grandson, Sir John Meade, was created, in 1776, Earl of Clanwilliam; and she deceasing on the 28th of November, 1736, aged 55, was also interred at Arles. Michael Grace had, among other issue by this marriage, first, Oliver, of Gracefield, his successor; second, John, of Sheffield, who died unmarried, on the 19th of September, 1780, and was buried at Arles; third, William, who resided chiefly in England and France, and died in London, on the 23rd of November, 1777, having married, in 1746, Mary, daughter and eventual sole heir to Richard Harford, of Marshfield, near Dublin, by whom he had issue two sons and one daughter, viz. first, Richard, of Boley, who resided at Southville, in the Queen's County, M. P. on whom, as already mentioned, the English baronetage of Sir Richard Gamon was entailed; second, John, a captain of carabineers in the imperial service of Germany, who died, unmarried, at the siege of Belgrade, on the 21st of October, 1789; Clara Louisa married, in 1782, to William Middleton, of Stockeld Park, county of York. Richard Grace, of Boley, married, in 1760, Jane, daughter of the Honourable John Evans, son of George, first Lord Carbery, and, dying on the 9th of January, 1801, aged 40, was buried at Arles. He left issue by his said wife, Jane, who died in Dublin on the 24th of April, 1804, and was also interred at Arles, three sons and two daughters, viz. first, Sir William Grace, who succeeded, as above stated, on the 8th of April, 1818, to the title of baronet; second, Sheffield, of Lincoln's-Inn, F. S. A.; and third, Percy, a captain in the royal navy; Jane, married to George Brooke, brother of

Sir Henry Brooke, of Colo-Brooke, Bart.; and Louisa Caroline. —Sheffield, the fourth son of Michael Grace, of Gracefield, died, in Dublin, on the 8th of September, 1746, aged 36, and was interred at Arles, having married Frances, daughter of John Bagot, of Castle Bagot, by whom he had issue an only child, Raymond, who died, unmarried, in France.

Oliver Grace, of Gracefield, was born on the 6th of December, 1704, and dying at Kilkenny, on the 24th of August, 1781, aged 77, was interred at Arles. He married, in December, 1733, Mary, only daughter and eventual heir to John Dowell, of Mantua House, who died at Gracefield on the 14th of November, 1765, aged 56, and was buried at Arles. By this lady he had issue two sons, viz. Michael, of Gracefield, his successor, and John, of Mantua, at which place he died on the 25th of April, 1811, aged 76, and was buried at Tusk Abbey, having married, in 1783, Mary, daughter and co-heir to Patrick Hussey, of Ardmore, by whom he had issue Oliver Dowell, of Mantua, married on the 3rd of September, 1819, to Frances, only surviving child of Sir Richard Nagle, Bart. by his first wife, Catharine, daughter and heiress of Maurice Fitz Gerald, of Puncbar's Grange, and has issue John-Dowell-Fitz Gerald Grace, born 11th of July, 1821.

Michael Grace, of Gracefield, died on the 25th of August, 1785, aged 50, and was buried at Arles, having married Mary, daughter and co-heir to Nicholas Plunket, of Dunsoghly Castle, who died in Dublin, the 9th of October, 1797, and was buried at Arles. By her he had issue an only daughter, viz. Alicia Grace, of Gracefield, and of Dunsoghly Castle, married, in 1792, to Morgan, third son of Thomas Kavanagh, of Borres House, in the county of Carlow, who dying on the 7th of November, 1804, was interred in the burial place of the Kavanagh family, at St. Mullins, county of Carlow.*

* In the Herald's Office the armorial bearings of the Gracefield family are blazoned in a coat, consisting of thirty-five quarterings, but the arms commonly used by that family are formed of four quarterings, viz.—1st. *gules*, a lion rampant per fess, *argent* and *or*; 2nd. *gules*, a saltire *argent*, between twelve cross crosslets *or*, a mullet for difference; 3rd. *or*, a chief

To the east of the small but picturesque hamlet of Arliss, is situated **BALLICKMOYLEA**, which, previous to the rebellion, was a village rapidly improving in extent and wealth. The devastation and ruinous effects of that lamentable event are still obvious, notwithstanding the unremitting exertions of William Cooper, Esq. the patriotic proprietor, to recal the industry and happiness which had been previously seated there. At a short distance from hence, the residence of that gentleman presents itself to view, embosomed in wood, and decorated with many beauties of sylvan scenery. The mansion of **COOPER'S HILL**, though much improved by the present proprietor, is of a character inferior to the extent of the grounds, and the value of the estate. The views obtained from this place are unspeakably fine, and are, perhaps, only equalled in this county, by the scenery displayed from Dundrom, already noticed on Sir William Grace's estate of Boley. The liberality of sentiment, hospitality of disposition, and magisterial utility of Mr. Cooper, are too well known and appreciated, to require the humble, but disinterested, meed of our applause.

SHRILE CASTLE, which is distant about three miles from Cooper's Hill, and still nearer to Carlow, conducts us to the eastern confines of the county. This massive, and once important, structure, is seated on the banks of the river Barrow, and was erected, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir Robert Hartpole, constable of Carlow Castle, and governor of the Queen's County. It will be recollected that the name of Hartpole occurs among the seven tribes, already noticed as having obtained vast possessions in this county. Among these, Sir Robert Hartpole appears to have been the founder of the most considerable, though not of the most durable, family. He died in 1594, leaving issue Sir William and Sir George Hartpole, both successively of Shrile Castle; and three daughters, viz. Ellenor, married to Francis Cosby, of Strad-

indented azure, three escallop shells in bend counterchanged; 4th. *argent*, a chevron between three garbs, *gules*. Crests, 1st. on a wreath a demy lion rampant, *argent*; 2nd. on a wreath a boar's head and neck erased, *or*.—Supporters, the dexter a lion proper; the sinister a boar *or*.—Motto: "Concordant nomine facta."

bally, who was slain in 1596; Margaret, to Gerald Grace, of Ballylinch Castle, who died in 1619; and Ellen, to Sir Thomas Loftus, of Timoho, who died in 1635. The descendants of these ladies, in the families of Cosby, of Stradbally, Grace, of Gracefield, and Loftus, of Killyan, still possess considerable property in this and the adjoining county. The representatives, however, of the Harpole family, are named Bowen and Lacky, to which gentlemen the two co-heiresses of the last male proprietor of Shrute Castle were married.

ABBAY-LEIX, formerly a place of some distinction, as the principal seat of O'More, the head of a powerful native sept, is now entitled to the attention and admiration of the topographer, in a superior degree, on account of the great improvements effected by the present noble owner of this estate, the Viscount de Vescy, and his immediate ancestor. A religious house was founded here, as is believed, about the year 600; but the existing history of this structure commences with its re-foundation, A. D. 1183; under the auspices of Corcheger O'More. By that chieftain the abbey of Leix was filled with Cistercian monks, from the abbey of Baltinglass; and the re-founder was himself interred within its walls. The religious society at this place maintained a high degree of reputation throughout several centuries, and a town of considerable extent, denominated Abbey-Leix, progressively arose under their protection. The chief historical event preserved concerning this town, relates to a serious skirmish, in the year 1421, between the partizans of the Earl of Ormonde, and the sept of Fitz-patrick. In this action the adherents of the Earl were routed, with considerable loss. Among the slain were two gentlemen, of weight in the county of Tipperary, named Parcell and Grant. Ten persons of rank were made prisoners, and not less than two hundred men, of various classes, fled for shelter to the sanctuary of the abbey. In the fifth year of Queen Elizabeth the dissolved abbey of Leix, together with twenty acres of arable land appertaining thereto, was granted, subject to a small annual rent, to Thomas Earl of Ormonde. It is observed by Mr. Archdall that the lands belonging to this monastery were, at the same time,

estimated at 800 acres. Not any traces of the monastic buildings, or of the castle of the O'Mores, are now to be discovered; nor did any vestiges exist within the memory of living persons.

The ancient town of Abbey-Leix, which had sunk into a state of insignificance, was entirely taken down by the late Lord de Vesey, and a new town, or village, founded on a more eligible site. Under the patronage of the present Viscount, this has become one of the neatest and most pleasing villages in the province of Leinster. The houses are marked by the most ornamental features compatible with true, and rustic, cottage-character. To each is attached a useful garden; and an air of rural beauty, rendered additionally valuable by the appearance of domestic comfort, pervades the whole well-organised village. The Church is a decorous structure, of ample proportions. At this place is a school, of some celebrity, for the education of young gentlemen, which is conducted, under the patronage of Lord de Vesey, on what has been termed the *Italian mode*, of blending gymnastic tuition with the usual forms of education.

The MANSION OF ABBEY-LEIX, constituting the seat of Viscount de Vesey, is a capacious and handsome building, faced with cut stone, erected by the father of the present nobleman, in the year 1774. The demesne is very extensive, and greatly enriched with woods, of a fine and venerable growth, which are, in several parts, formed into ornamental, and truly noble, avenues. But this territory is entirely indebted to art for its beauties. Its situation is low, and the contiguous country is naturally one vast extent of bog. So judicious and persevering have been the efforts of the munificent family of De Vesey, that a tract, utterly cheerless and unpromising whilst it remained under the sway of the O'Mores, now smiles in extensive cultivation, and constitutes a domain worthy of the noble owner.

HERWOOD, the seat of the Trench family, distant from Abbey-Leix about four miles, towards the east, is a demesne possessing few natural advantages, except an irregularity of surface. Much correctness of taste has been exercised, in converting this sterile district into a scene of real beauty. The grounds are finely adorn-

ed with artificial spreads of water, and the plantations are disposed with an admirable knowledge of the principles of landscape-gardening.

At TIMAHOE, distant about seven miles from Abbey-Leix, a monastery was founded by St. Mochoe, who died A. D. 497 ; which institution was afterwards re-founded by the O'Mores. Some unimportant remains of the buildings are still to be seen ; and in the proximity of the ruins is a round, or pillar-tower. At the distance of about one mile from the tower is an antient tath, or fort.

AGHABOE, a small and humble village, is noticed under the name of *A-choh-bow* in the life of St. Columba, written by Adamnanus, abbot of the Culdean monastery of Hy, one of the Hebrides. The Irish orthography *Achadh-bo* signifies the field of the ox ; an appellation evidently appropriate, on account of the richness of pasturage in this parish and its neighbourhood. At this place a religious establishment was instituted by St. Canice, in the sixth century ; and the see of Ossory was afterwards translated hither, but was removed to Kilkenny in the reign of Henry II. In the year 1250, as is stated by Mr. Archdall, or, according to other writers, in 1382, an abbey for friars of the order of St. Dominick was founded on or near the site of the antient monastery, by Florence Fitz-patrick, prince of Ossory. We are told by Archdall that the "great church" of Aghaboe was built A. D. 1234. Of this building some remains possibly exist in the present parochial church, which appears to have constituted the chancel of a more extensive fabric. This structure is in the pointed style, but without any eminent beauties or peculiarities. The northern wall, on the inner side, is "adorned with niches, canopies, and concentric mouldings ; and, near the communion-table, is a curious confession-box in the thickness of the wall."

The remains of the Dominican abbey are contiguous to the parish-church. These vestiges are thus described by Dr. Ledwith, the literary and antiquarian vicar of this parish. "It" (meaning the church of the abbey) "is 100 feet long by twenty-four

wide, and has five-pointed windows, three to the south, with east and west ones. That to the east is ramified; the western door has concentric arches: the walls of the abbey are not ornamented. There is a small tabernacle for sacred utensils, and on the south side is a projecting building, called Phelan's chapel, connected with the abbey by an arch. On the east side, above the altar, is a pedestal, on which stood the statue of St. Canice. There are two tabernacles, and also an inverted cone, for holding holy-water. On the north side of the abbey," (meaning on the north side of the abbey-church) "was a quadrangle, sixty feet square: in it were the monks' cells, in number ten, with servants' apartments, and necessary offices. The cellars were spacious, and over them were the prior's-room," (probably meaning the refectory) "forty-six by seventeen feet, and a large dormitory."*

To the north of the parish-church is an artificial mount, "in the form of a truncated cone, about forty-five feet in diameter at the top. A stone wall ran round the summit, and the ascent was by an undulating pathway." In this parish is, likewise, a large

* *Ledwich's Antiqu. of Ireland*, and account of the parish of Aghaboe, in *Mason's Parochial Survey*, vol. i. The following brief notice of Dr. Ledwich, who resided here many years as Vicar, is extracted from a MS. by the late Mr. Beauford, communicated by him to the author of this work. Edward Ledwich, L.L.D. author of the *Antiquities of Ireland*, and several other antiquarian works, was born in the year 1739, and is descended from an ancient Saxon family in Shropshire, feudal tenants of the De Lacies, Norman Barons of that district, who with them came into Ireland, about the year 1172. From them the Ledwich family obtained grants in the county of Westmeath, from which property they gained the local title of Lords de Ledwich, about the year 1329. During the contest at the time of the Revolution, the family adhering to the interest of James, lost most of their property, with the lives of the greater part of the members appertaining to it. The survivor, Edward Ledwich, with the small remains of the family property, settled in Dublin, in a mercantile line; and was the first who professed the Protestant faith. His son John, the father of the subject of this notice, was also engaged in trade. Edward Ledwich, author of the *Antiquities of Ireland*, was educated at Trinity College, and ordained in the established Church; he obtained the advowson of the vicarage of Aghaboe, in 1772, from whence he removed to Dublin in 1793.

earth-work, by some termed the Rath of Lara, and by others the Mote of Monacoghlan. This rath, or mote, is a hill of considerable altitude, protected by ramparts and fossæ, and has evidently constituted the rudely-fortified residence, or retreat, of an antient tribe. Amongst some few remains of old customs, it is remarked by Dr. Ledwich, that, "if you ask a female peasant her name, though married, she will give her maiden name, and by that she is called and known." It will be recollected that this practice also remains in parts of Wales.

There are several improved residences, on a small scale, in this neighbourhood, which greatly contribute to the beauty of the country. Among these may be named, *Ballybrophy*, belonging to the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos; *Oldglass*, to the family of Lord Ossory; *Aghaboe*, to Thomas Carr, Esq. and *Lismore*, to Sheffield Grace, Esq. The whole of the seats mentioned above are now occupied by gentlemen who rent of the respective owners.

END OF QUEEN'S COUNTY.

KING'S COUNTY.

THIS district is partly divided from the Queen's County by the Slievebloom mountains, which we have already noticed as affording only one narrow and inconvenient pass. Its eastern boundaries are formed by the county of Kildare. On the north are the counties of Meath and Westmeath. The river Shannon separates it from Roscommon and Galway towards the west. On the south-west it meets the county of Tipperary. This inland county was formerly included in the antient territories of Offaly and Lower Delvin, and was constituted a separate county in the reign of Philip and Mary; the appellation then bestowed being intended as a mark of compliment to the consort of the British queen.

This district was, at all recorded times, subdivided into a greater number of petty lordships than the adjoining tract of country, now denominated the Queen's County. Amongst the principal antient proprietors may be enumerated O'Conor-Faigle, or O'Conor, dynast of Offaly; and Mac Coghlan, dynast of Lower Delvin; together with the O'Melaghlin; O'Molloys; O'Dempseys; O'Douleys; O'Carrolls; O'Malones; O'Shanaghs; O'Dalys; O'Dunnes; Mac Gawlys; the O'Moonys; O'Higgans; Mac Egans; O'Duigans; O'Gillefoyls; and O'Mores.

The form of this county is extremely irregular. Its breadth, according to Sir Charles Coote, "is, from the most eastern part of the barony of Coolestown, near the Boyne, to Clonmacnois, on the Shannon, thirty-two miles; but the more general breadth does not exceed seventeen; and it is in length, from the moat of Grenouge adjoining West Meath, to the southernmost part of the barony of Clonlisk, thirty-one miles by a direct line, but above forty-five miles by the nearest road, the county being so much intersected with deep bogs."

It is divided into the following eleven baronies, one of which is subdivided into two half baronies: *Warrenstown*; *Coolestown*; *Philipstown* (divided into *Upper* and *Lower*); *Ballycowen*; *Kilcoursey*; *Garrycastle*; *Geshill*; *Balliboy*; *Eglisk*, or *Fircal*; *Ballybritt*; and *Clonlisk*. The number of parishes is fifty-two; of which sixteen are in the diocese of Meath; sixteen in that of Killaloe; and eighteen under the see of Kildare. One insulated parish is in the diocese of Ossory, and one parish in that of Clonfert. The total numbers of houses and inhabitants in the different baronies, according to returns made under the act of 1812, for ascertaining the population of Ireland, are as follow; but it must be noticed that the returns for the seven baronies marked thus,* were considered as being objectionable.]

Baronies, Half Baronies, or Parishes.	Number of Houses.	Gross Population.
Warrenstown,	584	3,723
Coolestown,	1,326	7,525
Philipstown, Upper,.....	1,325	7,734
Philipstown, Lower,.....	1,132	6,052
*Ballycowen,	3,408	13,747
*Kilcoursey,	1,350	7,117
*Garrycastle,	4,106	23,367
*Geshill,	1,104	8,717
Balliboy,	1,110	6,284
*Eglisk, or Fircal,	919	5,123
*Ballybritt,	2,319	13,645
*Clonlisk,	2,022	11,193
TOTAL....	20,705	113,226

According to returns made in 1821, the number of houses was 23,032; and the number of inhabitants 132,319. Thus, according to those returns, the increase of inhabitants between the years 1813 and 1821, would appear to have amounted to 19,093.

With the exception of the Slievebloom mountains, on its southern borders, this county is in general of a flat character, containing a great part of the antient plain of Ireland, deno-

minated Ely.* It is supposed, by Sir Charles Coote, that nearly half the contents of the county were, in 1801, "bog, mountain, and waste; or not arable land, as towns, roads, water," &c. The towns occupy but a small part of this vast proportion of uncultivated country. Great part of the bog of Allen lies within the county limits. Several tracts have been reclaimed since the date of Sir C. Coote's "Statistical Survey," but scarcely to a sufficient extent to affect, materially, the probable correctness of his calculation. The continuous bogs and levels preclude all possibility of picturesque beauty; but, in the districts more readily amenable to cultivation, much corn is grown. The pastures are not very luxuriant, but, as we are told by Sir Charles Coote, are "kind and fattening in their quality, and excellent for sheep-walks. Stores and yearlings are the more general stock of black cattle, and the sheep and wool trade the most considerable pursuit" of the pasture farmers. It is to be regretted that manufactures have, hitherto, met with little attention in this district; but the linen trade is cultivated with some success, in one quarter of the county.

This county may be described as being well watered. We have stated that the river Shannon forms its western boundary, for many miles. The little Brosna, which falls into that noble river, divides it from Tipperary; and the larger Brosna winds through the centre of the county. The Boyne and the lesser Barrow glide along its eastern borders. The Grand Canal crosses its northern part, and conveys vast quantities of turf, used as fuel, to the city of Dublin.

There are no towns of great importance, but many handsome family-seats. Amongst vestiges of antiquity, the ruins of Clonmacnois, comprising two round towers, are of primary interest.

* This plain, though in appearance low, and almost covered with bog, is, at its centre, which forms the summit-level of the Grand Canal, more than 1300 feet above the harbour of Dublin. The waters produced on this cheerless plain find their way to the sea westward by the Shannon, and eastward by the rivers Barrow, Boyne &c. M. S. by the late W. Beauford, A. M.

As some of the principal proprietors of land may be noticed Earl Digby; the Earl of Rosse; the Earl of Charleville; and the families of Daley, Stepney, and Bernard.

PHILIPSTOWN, distant from Dublin thirty-eight and a half miles, towards the south-west, is the assize town of this county, but is otherwise a place of small importance. The Grand Canal passes close to one extremity of the town, but without communicating to it any observable commercial benefits. Here are extensive barracks, and a county gaol, completed some few years back.—This place formerly constituted the chief seat of O'Connor, dynast of Offaley. Its modern name was bestowed in honour of Philip II. of Spain, husband of Queen Mary, to whose example and influence are, probably, to be attributed much of the gloomy asperity, and many of the contracted views, which marked the reign of the weak and faulty, but greatly-calumniated, Mary.—*Dingan Castle*, the seat of the dynast O'Connor, was taken in the year 1538, by Lord Grey, then lord deputy; and again by the lord deputy, Sir William Bellingham, in 1546, at which latter period O'Connor was forced to take refuge, with his family, in the province of Connaught. By Sir William Bellingham a castle was erected here, the ruins of which are still to be seen. This place was taken and burned by the adherents of King James II., in 1690. Philipstown gives the title of baron to Viscount Molesworth, so created in 1716.

At the distance of two miles from Philipstown is CLONEARL, the seat of William Magan, Esq. of an antient Westmeath family, who lately served the office of high sheriff of that county. The surrounding country presents, with a solitary but grand exception, that of Croghan hill, one dreary expanse of bog. Chiefly by the efforts of the father to the present proprietor (made at a very considerable expense), Clonearl, however repulsive in natural circumstances, has been gradually formed into one of the finest demesnes to be seen in this county. A triumph of art entitled to extensive emulation! Great improvements of the mansion are now in progress, under the auspices of the present possessor of the estate.

Croghan Hill, which rises in lonely majesty amid this flat and dispiriting, but thickly-populated, tract of country, is of great height and circumference, and is, even to its summit, beautifully clothed with verdure. This fine eminence is celebrated by Spenser in his "*Faery Queen*." At the base of the hill are the ruins of a church; and, near the summit, are some traces of antiquity, described by Sir Charles Coote as "an antient burial-place."

At EDENDERRY, a small and mean town in this part of the county, are the remains of a castle. This building is situated on a considerable eminence, and was, in the sixteenth century, the residence of a branch of the Colley, or Cowley, family, of Castle-Carberry. Sir George Colley defended this fortress, in 1599, against the abettors of Tyrone's rebellion. The property afterwards passed, by the marriage of a female, into the family of Blundell, Viscount Blundell, which title is now extinct. On the Castle-hill is a neat church, erected within the last thirty years. Near this town a religious house, termed *Monasteroras*, of which remains still exist, was founded, in the year 1325, by the family of de Bermingham of Carberry, locally styled Mac Feoris.

BALYBRITAIN, otherwise WARRENTOWN, CASTLE, near the eastern extremity of the King's County, was the antient seat of the family of Warren, formerly very powerful in this part of Ireland. Sir Henry Warren garrisoned this fortress, anno 1600, for Queen Elizabeth. On the 13th of February, 1691, a party of the adherents of James II., headed by Lieutenant-Colonel O'Connor, took the castle of Balybrittain, which they sacked and burnt, extending their ravages, on the same day, to the neighbouring town of Edenderry. On the decease of Sir Peter Warren, K.B. who died in the command of the naval station off Dublin, in the year 1752, leaving no male issue, the estate passed to the heirs female. A branch, however, of this family still exists, as we believe, in Ireland.

At *Lietnmore* an abbey was founded by St. Pulcherius, called

in the Irish language, St. Mochoemac, concerning whom several tales of miracles were invented in past ages. St. Palcharius died A. D. 635.

GEASHILL is a small village, composed chiefly of thatched cabins, but noted for having one of the largest fairs in Ireland for the sale of swine. Here is a Charity-school, open to children of all persuasions, to which Earl Digby (whose ancestor was elevated to the peerage, under the title of Baron Digby of *Geashill*, A. D. 1620) is a liberal contributor.—The principal interest of this place proceeds from the ruins of its *Castle*, and the story connected with that structure. Geashill formerly belonged to the Irish chief O'Dempsey (not to O'Molloy, as is asserted by Seward); and was afterwards possessed by the house of Kildare. About the year 1620, this estate passed to the noble family of Digby, in consequence of the marriage of Lady Lætitia, only daughter of Gerald Lord Offaley, with Sir Robert Digby, of Colcehill in the county of Warwick. Her Ladyship surviving her husband, experienced a memorable siege in her castle of Geashill, in the civil wars of the seventeenth century. An account, at a considerable length, of this siege, is given in Mr. Archdall's edition of the peerage of Ireland (article Digby, Lord Digby); and a more concise notice is also presented in the third volume of Leland's History of Ireland. This transaction took place in the year 1642. The siege lasted for several months, and the garrison, assisted by a supply received from Sir Charles Coote, persisted in a gallant defence until the Lady Lætitia (who, on the decease of her father, was created Baroness Offaley for life) was safely conducted from the castle by Sir Richard Grenville.*

* Several letters which passed between Lady Offaley and the leaders of the besieging party, are printed by Archdall, in the place noticed above. The whole of those written by her ladyship are highly honourable to her spirit and good sense. The following answer to the first summons of the assailants, has been deemed worthy of insertion in the pages of regular history:

"I received your letter, wherein you threaten to sack this my castle,

At KILLBIGH, distant about four miles from Glenshall, an abbey was founded, as is believed, in the sixth century, by St. Sincheal M'Cenenain. A nunnery was also founded here, for nuns of the order of St. Angustin, by the family of Warren, soon after the arrival of the English. A house of grey friars was likewise erected here, in the reign of Edward I.—Some remains of a religious structure are still to be seen, at the foot of a hill near the church.

TULLAMORE, a neat and thriving town, situated in the barony of Balycowan, and on the banks of the river Clodagh, is the estate of the Earl of Charleville. Few towns in Ireland have experienced so rapid an improvement, as that now under consideration; a circumstance to be attributed, partly, to the principle of re-action after the sustenance of calamity. Late in the eighteenth century Tullamore was a village of an inferior class, consisting chiefly of mean and comfortless thatched hovels. An accidental fire levelled those wretched habitations with the ground; and, on the site, has since arisen a town of eligible disposal and a fair aspect. The Grand Canal, which runs along the borders of the town, is of obvious advantage to the inhabitants, and several branches of traffic are here pursued with considerable spirit. A handsome church has been lately erected, but, as it would appear, at an inconvenient distance from the more populous parts of the town. This building, which is highly creditable to the talents of F. Johnston, Esq. the architect employed, was completed in 1818, with the aid of £3000 lent for that purpose by the Board of First Fruits, and the gift of £600 from the

by his majesty's authority. I am, and ever have been, a loyal subject and a good neighbour among you, and, therefore, cannot but wonder at such an assault. I thank you for your offer of a convoy, wherein I hold little safety. And, therefore, my resolution is, that being free from offending his majesty, or doing wrong to any of you, I will live and die innocently; and will do my best to defend my own, leaving the issue to God. Though I have been, and still am, desirous to avoid the shedding of christian blood, yet, being provoked, your threats shall no wit dismay me.

“LETTICE OFFALIA.”

same source. Tullamore gives the title of baron to the Earl of Charleville.

In the immediate vicinity of the above town is the costly mansion, and very fine demesne, of the Earl of Charleville. The house is a spacious structure, recently erected, chiefly in imitation of an antient English castle, after the designs of Francis Johnston, Esq. The demesne is very extensive, and truly beautiful, although surrounded by bogs and moors, flat, dreary, and repulsive. The plantations are eminently fine, and the hand of tasteful cultivation is, indeed, visible throughout the whole of the grounds. The river Clodagh, supplied by several mountain-streams, pursues a rapid course through this demesne, often falling precipitously over disjointed masses of rock. Sequestered and lovely walks are formed upon the banks of the river. A disgusting piece of moor-land has been converted into a lake; and various decorative operations of art reflect high honour on the good taste, and magnificent spirit, of the successive noble owners of this estate.

Within one mile of Tullamore are the remains of BALLYCOWEN (more properly BALLY-ECOWEN) CASTLE. This structure, when in its pride of strength, was taken from O'Melaghlin, A. D. 1536, by Leonard Lord Grey, then lord deputy. Queen Elizabeth having confiscated the estate of Art O'Melaghlin, representative of the antient kings of Meath, "chief of the line of Heremon," granted, in 1589, a portion of his property, including the castle of Bally-ecowen and the district of Moyely, to Thomas Morres, Esq.* This castle surrendered to Sir Hardress Waller, the republican general, in 1650, and has since sunk progressively into decay. The extent of the ruins evince its former strength and importance.

DURROW, now a small village, was formerly a place of some

* Rolls Office.—The above named Thomas Morres, Esq. erected the mansion of *Moyela*, in the style usually denominated Elizabethan; of which building the walls are still remaining. The manors granted to him, by Queen Elizabeth afterwards passed to the family of Herbert.

note, on account of a monastic institution, founded by St. Columb, A. D. 546. In later times, as we are informed by Ware and Archdall, a monastery for regular canons of St. Augustin was founded at the same place. In 1175, this religious house, and the surrounding country, were laid waste by the English.* After the dissolution of monasteries, Durrow Abbey was granted, by Queen Elizabeth, to Nicholas Herbert, Esq. who converted it into his family residence. The estate afterwards passed to the family of Stepney, in which it is still vested.

CLARA, situated to the north of Durrow, is a small but rather neat town, having annual fairs, and a weekly market, at which much corn is sold. In the vicinity of this town occurred, in the year 1821, one of those phenomena denominated *moving bogs*. The best account of this destructive and terrific operation of nature is contained in a letter of Richard Griffith, Esq. mining engineer, whose name and talents we have before had occasion to notice, and who was requested by the Royal Dublin Society to visit the scene of devastation. The eruption commenced on the 25th of June, 1821; and the very curious and satisfactory letter of Mr. Griffith is dated the 16th of July following. We present, in the margin, extracts, conveying the principal information afforded by this experienced and skilful engineer.†

* It is said, by some writers, that Sir Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Meath, was murdered at Durrow, in the year 1185, while superintending the works of a castle, commenced upon the site of St. Columb's Abbey. According to other authorities this act of assassination took place at Ard-norcher, in Westmeath. It is generally admitted that the earl was slain from behind, whilst in a stooping posture, by the blow of an axe, inflicted, according to varying assertions, either by one of his own countrymen and immediate followers, or by an Irishman, named O'Cabary.

† "The bog of Kilmaleady, from whence the eruption broke out, situated about two miles to the north of the village of Clara, in the King's County, is of considerable extent; it may probably contain about 500 acres; in many parts it is 40 feet in depth, and it is considered to be the wettest bog in the country. It is bounded on all sides, except the south, by steep ridges of high land, which are composed, at the top, of limestone

Near Clara is *Charles-town*; contiguous to which village is the CASTLE OF KILCOURSKEY, once a place of considerable strength.

gravel, and beneath of cavernous limestone rock, containing subterranean streams; but the southern face of the bog is open to a moory valley, about a quarter of a mile in breadth, which, for nearly a mile in length, takes a southern direction in the lands of Lisnisky, and then turns at right angles to the west, and continues gradually widening for upwards of two miles. Through the centre of this valley flows a stream about twelve feet in breadth, which serves as a discharge for the waters from the bog and the surrounding country, and finally joins the river Brosna above the bridge of Ballycumber.

"The bog of Kilmaleady, like all other deep and wet bogs, is composed, for the first eight or ten feet from the surface downward, of a reddish-brown spongy mass, formed of the still undecomposed fibres of the bog moss, *sphagnum-palustre*, which, by capillary attraction, absorbs water in great quantity. Beneath this fibrous mass, the bog gradually becomes pulpy, till, at length, towards the bottom, it assumes the appearance, and, when examined, the consistence of a black mud, rather heavier than water.

"The surface of the bog of Kilmaleady was elevated upwards of twenty feet above the level of the valley, from which it rose at a very steep angle, and its external face, owing to the uncommon dryness of the season, being much firmer than usual, the inhabitants of the vicinity were enabled to sink their turf holes, and cut turf at the depth of at least ten feet beneath the surface of the valley, and, in fact, until they reached the blue clay which forms the substratum of the bog. Thus, the faces of many of the turf banks reached the unusual height of thirty feet perpendicular; when, at length, on the 19th day of June, the lower pulpy and muddy part of the bog, which possessed little cohesion, being unable to resist the great pressure of water from behind, gave way, and being once set in motion, floated the upper part of the bog, and continued to move with astonishing velocity along the valley to the southward, forcing before it not only the clumps of turf on the edge of the bog, but even patches of the moory meadows, to the depth of several feet, the grass surface of which heaved and turned over almost like the waves of the ocean; so that in a very short space of time the whole valley, for the breadth of about a quarter of a mile between the bog edge and the base of the hill of Lisnisky, was covered with bog to the depth of from eight to ten feet, and appeared everywhere studded with green patches of moory meadow.

"The hill of Lisnisky retarded the progress of the bog for some time; at length it began to flow at right angles in its first course along the valley;

The barony of Kilcoursey, which now gives the title of viscount to the family of Lambart, Earls of Cavan, was formerly denomi-

where it turns to the west, and continued with unabated rapidity till it reached the bog road of Kilbride (which runs directly across the valley, and is elevated five or six feet above it), and choaked up the bridge through which the waters of the stream pass. This barrier retarded the progress of the bog for five days; at the end of that time, the accumulation was such, from the still moving bog and the waters of the stream, that it flowed over the road, and covered the valley to the south of it for about half a mile, flowing with varied velocity, till it was again stopped, for a few hours, as I understand, by a second road across the valley, leading from Clara to Woodfield. Having also overcome this obstacle, it proceeded slowly westward; and if its progress had not been checked by the very judicious means that have been employed, the whole extent of the valuable meadows, which compose the valley where it expands to the westward, must long since have been covered. But, when the bog had passed over the road of Kilbride, and the consternation in the country became general, at the desire of the lords justices, Mr. Gregory employed Mr. Killaly, engineer to the Directors-general of Inland Navigation, to carry into execution any works that could be devised to arrest the progress of the bog. Mr. Killaly at once perceived, that the only feasible remedy was to draw off the water that had accumulated; and to accomplish this end, he employed a number of labourers to open the course of the stream where it was choaked up, and also the drains through the valley that could be directed into the stream. By this means the head of water was soon lowered, and in consequence the bog ceased to flow—and all the loose masses which floated on the river were broken to pieces, by labourers placed at intervals throughout its course.

“ I shall now describe the present appearance and state of the bog and moory valley.

“ In the centre of the bog, for the space of about a mile and a half in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth, a valley has been formed, sloping at the bottom from the original surface of the bog, to the depth of 30 feet, where the eruption first took place. In this valley or gulf, there are numberless concentric cuts, or fissures, filled with water nearly to the top.

“ The valley between the edge of the bog and the road of Kilbride, for the length of half a mile, and an extent of between 60 and 80 acres, may be considered as totally destroyed. It is covered by tolerably firm bog, from six to ten feet in depth, consisting at the surface of numberless green islands, composed of detached parts of the moory meadows, and of small rounded patches of the original heathy surface of the bog, varying from

nated "Fox's Country," and was the territory of the family of O'Shenagh, or Fox, whose seat is termed *Cloghatana*. In the garden is still to be seen the rock, or stone, upon which the chiefs of this line were inaugurated, on acceding to the toparchy.—In this district, also, occur *Balynamintan* and *Marahbrook*, seats of the family of Marsh; *Kilfylan*, the seat of an antient branch of the family of De Bermingham; and *Prospect*, the residence of Mr. Holmes, to which are attached extensive bleaching-greens.

Mountarmstrong, beautifully situated on rising ground over the river Brosna, which winds through a luxuriant plain, is the seat of the family of Armstrong, of which name there are several resident gentlemen in this quarter.

FERRANE, FIRBANE, or FEARRANE, is a small post and fair town, finely situated on the banks of the Brosna, which river rolls its clear waters through a verdant plain, its banks adorned with rich and picturesque plantations. The views from the bridge are eminently pleasing, and embrace, on either hand, the principal objects in this attractive display of river-scenery.

In the immediate vicinity of the above town, and on the borders of the river, is GALLAN, or GILLAN, a lovely seat, lately the residence of a branch of the Armstrong family. A Monastery was founded at this place, according to Colgan (*Acta S. S.* p. 312) so

two to ten feet in diameter, which are separated from each other by brown pulpy bog, and the bed of the original stream is elevated to about eight or ten feet above its former course, so as to flow over the road.

"Beyond the road to Kilbride the bog has flowed for one mile westward, and covered from 50 to 70 acres; in this part the heathy patches of bog generally lessen in quantity; the green islands disappear, and nothing is observed but a thin deposit, consisting of a granulated black bog mud, varying from one to three feet in thickness. This, though destructive for the present year, may, when dry, be burnt, and removed for manure to the neighbouring uplands, or left on the spot to fertilize the valley.

"Thus, the whole distance which the bog has flowed is about three miles in length, namely, one mile and a half in the bog, and the same distance over the moory valley; and the extent covered amounts to about 150 acres."
—Letter of R. Griffith, Mining Engineer, &c. *ut supra*.

early as the year 492, by St. Canoc. We are told by Mac Geoghegan that a celebrated school was established here, in the year 820, by "some emigrants from Wales." O'Melaghlin, aided by Teig-roe (O'Melaghlin) and Edmund Faye, an Anglo-Norman leader, wasted this abbey in 1548; but it was speedily restored, and still existed in Colgan's time. On the suppression of monasteries this house was granted to Sir Gerald Moore. The Castle of Gallen was built by Mac Coghlan, and was taken and plundered by Ireton, in 1650.

Among other seats in the neighbourhood of the same town may be noticed *Kincor*, the residence of the Jessop family; and *Balylin*, the handsome house, and well-improved demesne, of the family of King.

At the distance of one mile and a half from Ferbane are seen the noble ruins of *KILCOOLGAN*, or *KILCOGHLAN, CASTLE*, formerly the seat of Mac Coghlan, antient dynast of a large tract of country, comprising the barony of Garrycastle, or Lower Delvin, and several adjoining districts.

STRAWBERRY HILL, distant three miles from Ferbane, and one mile from the high road, was erected by, and formed, at the time of his decease, the residence of, the late Thomas Coghlan Esq. M. P. for the borough of Banagher, who was usually styled "The Maw," and was chief of the name and arms of Mac Coghlan, antient dynasts of Lower Delvin, otherwise "Mac Coghlan's country." The estate of this gentleman extended several miles in length and breadth, and contained numerous castle-ruins. It was inherited by him directly from his illustrious ancestors; and constituted, as we believe, one of the oldest hereditary tenures of landed property, passing by regular male descent, to be found in the possession of any family in Europe.*

* With the assistance of a distinguished correspondent, to whom this work is greatly indebted, (the Chev. De Montmorency) we are enabled to present the following particulars relating to Mr. Coghlan, in whom were most curiously retained, even in our own days, many characteristics of the Irish chieftain of the "olden times."—Thomas Coghlan, Esq.—or,

MORSTOWN, a mansion on the borders of the river Brosna, is the antient seat of the L'Estrange family. Thomas, afterwards Sir Thomas L'Estrange, Knt. of this place, was appointed one of the queen's privy council, in the year 1582.

GLEAN-USSEN, GLEANE, or GLIN, is situated near Ferbane. An abbey was founded here by St. Diermit, or Dermott, whose festival is observed on the 8th of July. St. Coemgan, successor of the founder, died *anno* 563. No records of this abbey have been discovered of a later date than 1082. At this place stood a castle, which was forfeited in 1641, by O'Mooney, the antient proprietor. In the same district flourished, in ages long past, the *Abbey of Mugna*, founded, as is said, by St. Finan of

in attention to local phraseology, "The Maw," for he was not known, or addressed, on his own domain by any other appellation—was a remarkably handsome man; gallant; eccentric; proud; satirical; hospitable in the extreme; and of expensive habits. In disdain of modern opinions, he adhered to the national customs of Ireland, and the modes of living practised by his ancestors. His house was ever open to strangers. His tenants held their lands at will, and paid their rents, according to the antient fashion, partly in kind, and the remainder in money. "The Maw" levied the fines of mortmain when a vassal died. He became heir to the defunct farmer; and no law was admissible, or practised, within the precincts of Mac Coghlan's domain, but such as savoured of the Brehon code. It must be observed, however, that, most commonly, the "Maw's" commands, enforced by the impressive application of his horsewhip, decided, *instantly*, a litigated point! From this brief outline it might be supposed that we were talking of Ireland early in the seventeenth century; but Mr. Coghlan died not longer back than about the year 1790. With him perished the rude grandeur of his long-drawn line. He died without issue, and destitute of any legitimate male representative to inherit his name, although most of his followers were of the sept of the Coghlan's, none of whom, however, were strictly qualified, or were suffered by the "Maw," to use the *Mac*, or to claim any relationship with himself. His great estate passed, at his decease, to the son of his sister, the late Right Hon. Denis-Bowes Daly, of Daly's-town, county of Galway; who, likewise, had no children, and who, shortly before his death in 1821, sold the Mac Coghlan estate to divers persons, the chief purchaser being Thomas Bernard, Esq. M. P. for this county, in whom the larger proportion of the property is now vested.

Clonard, on a piece of land given to him by Carhair, King of Leinster.

DOONE CASTLE, a ruinous fabric in this part of the county, was for many ages the residence of O'Mooney, chief of a sept which is said to derive from a branch of O'Connor Failge. This family, however, was long tributary to Mac Coghlan, during which time the manor of Doone was held by O'Mooney, on the tenure of supplying the residence of *the Maw*, daily, with a certain quantity of "Milch." This antient family became extinguished, in the direct line, on the decease of the late Owen Mooney, Esq. whose nephew, — Enraght, Esq. has assumed his mother's family name, and is now owner of the estate. The present family residence is a plain house, of little interest. The Castle was originally a spacious structure, seated on a rock. One tower remains, covered with a thick and sombre coat of ivy. The neighbouring country people cherish a tradition, respecting a dreadful massacre said to have been perpetrated in this castle, by O'Mooney, on certain chieftains, his rivals, whom he had invited to a banquet within its walls. The legend adds, that never since the day of this base violation of the laws of hospitality, has the sun deigned to glance upon the profaned mansion. The gloomy aspect of Doone tower is well suited to the preservation, and popular belief, of such a traditionary tale.

BALYCUMBER is a neat and truly pleasing village, watered by the Brosna, over which river is a good stone bridge. Here is a handsome seat, belonging to the Armstrong family, lately occupied by Richard O'Connor, Esq.

Balyard, or *Bealard*, and *Mount-Mullock*, in this district, are seats of the family of Mullock. At the distance of two miles from Ballycumber is *Castle-Armstrong*, the seat of Mr. Armstrong; near which are the ruins of *Lemanaghan Church* and *Castle*, encompassed by an expanse of bog. On this dreary spot a monastery was founded in the seventh century, of which scarcely any records are now remaining. The castle constituted the antient seat of a chief branch of the O'Molloys.

The interesting ruins of CLUAN, or CLONMACNOIS (the secluded recess of the sons of nobles) are situated on the banks of the river Shannon, in the north-western part of this county. We are told by Sir James Ware, and the authorities quoted in his History of the Bishops of Ireland, that the Abbey of Clonmacnois was founded, A. D. 548, by St. Kieran, or Ciaran, who, like Willis, first bishop of Mayence, in Germany, was the son of a carpenter. The site of the Abbey, together with many neighbouring parishes and town-lands, was granted to Kieran by Dermot, monarch of Ireland, the son of Fergus-Cerbhaol, son, or grandson, of Conal, one of the sons of King Nial, surnamed of "the Nine Hostages," progenitor of the houses of O'Melaghlin and O'Neill.

The religious house founded at Clonmacnois speedily became a monastery of great wealth and celebrity; but St. Kieran presided over the foundation for no more than one year. He died at this place, on the 9th of September, 549, and was succeeded by St. Tigernach. The abbey-church was afterwards converted into a cathedral; and the monastery, which belonged to regular canons of St. Augustin, had the reputation, for many ages, of possessing more ample revenues than any similar institution in Ireland.* "This monastic establishment," says Mr. Archdall, "was peculiarly and universally esteemed; it was uncommonly extensive, and amazingly enriched by various kings and princes. Its landed property was so great, and the number of cells and monasteries subjected to it so numerous, that almost half of Ireland was said to be within the bounds of Clonmacnoise. And, what was a

* For a great part of its celebrity the monastery was indebted to the excellence of the tuition, afforded to distinguished youth, by its learned inmates. "It became celebrated," writes Dr. O'Connor, "on the continent, when St. Colchu was the *Fer-leiglad*, that is, moderator of the Schools, or Lecturer, there, in 791. Charlemagne sent him a present of fifty shekels, through the hands of his favoured Alcuin, as appears in Alcuin's epistle to Colchu, published by Usher. It was the school where the nobility of Connaught had their children educated, and was therefore called *Cluan-mc-nois*, the secluded recess of the sons of nobles."—Appendix to Bib. MS. Stowensis, p. 39.

strong inducement, and contributed much towards enriching this house, it was believed that all persons who were interred in the holy ground belonging to it, had insured to themselves a sure and immediate ascent to heaven; many princes (it is supposed for this reason) chose this for the place of their sepulture."

The reverence with which most classes appeared to regard this consecrated spot, proved, however, unable to preserve it from the inroads of ferocity and avarice. The annals of Clonmacnois are, indeed, stained with instances unusually frequent of sacrilegious rapine. The great wealth of the see and abbey attracted the spoliating visits of all parties. "The abbey and town," observes the author last cited, "were frequently plundered, burnt, and destroyed by despoilers of every kind, from the unpolished Irish desperado to the empurpled king." The barbarous Ostmen repaired to the plunder of this religious place, as if to a periodical harvest; and some parties of the English, after their settlement in Ireland, imitated, in several years, the rapacity of those unhallowed free-booters.

We gladly present, in relief of so dreary a picture, some few particulars of local history, relating to peaceful transactions. In 840, there was held at Clonmacnois a great convention, by Feylim M'Criomthan, King of Cashell, at which were present the princes of Ireland, and most of the principal men of the kingdom, when Neill Callan, Prince of Ulster, son of Hugh-Oirniódhe, O'Neill, monarch of Ireland, submitted and did homage to Feylim. The annalist Tigernach died here, in the year 1088.

In 1155, Tordelvach O'Connor, "King of Connaught, Meath and Breffny, and monarch of all Ireland, was interred near to the altar of St. Kieran." He directed "his horse and arms to be deposited in this abbey, on account of his singular reverence for the patron saint." In 1170, money was coined at Clonmacnois. In 1198, Roderic O'Connor, the last monarch of Ireland, was buried in the great church, on the north side of the high altar.*

* This unfortunate sovereign died in the monastery of *Cong, Co. of Mayo*, under which head see his death again mentioned, with some further particulars.

The instances of regal interment at this place are extremely numerous. The above are noticed, on account of the exact locality of sepulture preserved by history.

The period has not been correctly ascertained, at which Clonmacnois was constituted an episcopal see. Many, indeed, affirm that St. Kieran was the first bishop; and Sir J. Ware, commencing with that saint, names, with few interruptions, a succession of prelates down to the year 1568, at which time this see was, by parliamentary authority, united to the bishopric of Meath, which union has ever since subsisted.* The cathedral was endowed with large possessions, and was, says Ware, "above all others famous for the sepulchres of the nobility and bishops." Many ancient inscriptions have been discovered amongst the ruins at this place, some in Latin and others in Irish, but not any in Hebrew or Greek, as is said by Sir J. Ware, Mr. Archdall, and other writers.

We have already stated that the great sanctity attached to Clonmacnois, caused it to be selected as a place of sepulture by many of the ancient princes of Ireland. The cemetery, writes Archdall, contained about two Irish acres, on which, in addition to the cathedral, "ten other churches were afterwards built" (as places of sepulture for their families) "by the kings and petty princes of the circumjacent country, who, though at perpetual war whilst living, were content to rest peaceably beside each other. The several founders named these churches as follows: Temple Righ, or Melaghlín's Church, built by O'Melaghlín, King of Meath, and to this day it is the burial place of that family;† Temple O'Conor, built by O'Conor Don; Temple

* See an enumeration of the bishops of Clonmacnois, in Ware's Works, by Harris, vol. i. p. 165-174. The *Deanery* of Clonmacnois still exists, and is mentioned in our account of the diocese of Meath.

† Fian O'Melaghlín, King of Meath, and the learned Abbot Coleman Mac Aillealla, built, A. D. 901, the church called "Of the Kings;" which became the place of sepulture of the O'Melaghlín family. They likewise built the great church, or cathedral, wherein were deposited the relics of St. Kieran, their patron.—*De Montmorency MSS.*

Kelly; Temple Finian, or M'Carthy, built by M'Carthy-more, of Munster; Temple Hurpan, or M'Laffy's Church; Temple Kieran; Temple Ganney; Temple Doulin, which is now the parish church; and Temple M'Dermott."

The remains of these celebrated buildings are situated in a wild and cheerless part of the county, in the vicinity of a large branch of the bog of Allen. The immediate site of the churches is rising ground, on the eastern border of the Shannon, unquestionably the most eligible spot which the neighbourhood affords. The whole of the buildings are now in a state of ruin; and this mournful assemblage is chiefly indebted for the air of grandeur spread over its decay, to its lofty pillar-towers, a species of monument demonstrative of past magnificence, and almost calculated to deride the effects of time.*

Few refinements of architecture appear to have been employed in the buildings at Clonmacnois; and few, indeed, could be expected on a spot so often visited by the sword and firebrand of spoliators, against whom the sanctity of the altar itself was no

* We have noticed, in our introductory pages, the conjecture of Mr. Harris as to the Pillar-towers of Ireland being designed for the use of "the Anachoret monks termed Stylites." From the frequency, and the stately character, of these structures, it would appear to be very improbable that they were, in reality, constructed for fanatics so few and eccentric. Some further arguments, derived from the constituent parts of the pillars of Ireland, are presented by the Chev. de Montmorency, amongst which may be noticed the following. "In the light in which I view that object, I conceive Symon the Stylite's pillar at Antioch, to have been a heavy and solid shaft of masonry, of the Tuscan order, surmounted by a flat capital with a parapet or railings; and, like the Phœnician Obelisk, ascended outwardly by a spiral or winding stair-way, without steps. A stair-way of this nature, only internally,—'un escalier en spirale et sans marches,'—may be seen and admired, in the spire of the superb Gothic steeple called the *Giralda*, belonging to the cathedral at Seville; and another in the royal castle at Amboise. In this way, alone, can I figure to myself, the possibility of many persons communicating and conversing at once with the Stylite. The slender shape and construction of the Irish Pillar, precludes the practicability of holding any such colloquies, either within or withoutside."—*Essay on the Origin, &c. of the Irish Pillar-tower*, pp. 32-3.

protection. The structure termed Temple, or Teampull, Mac Dermod, was of the largest dimensions, and exhibits the richest architectural vestiges. The northern door of this fabric is of the pointed form, and its attendant decorations exhibit some remains of sculpture, which will be viewed with additional interest, on account of the rare occurrence of such relics in the ecclesiastical edifices of this country. The doorcase is richly ornamented throughout. In the space over the arch of entrance are three figures, representing St. Patrick, in *pontificalibus*, and St. Francis and St. Dominic, in the habits of their respective orders. Small carvings, in an upper band, again present the same saints, together with Odo, dean of Clonmacnois, whose re-edification of this part of the church is denoted by the following inscription: *Dous Odo Decanus Cluanm. fieri fecit.* The west door of the same church, also of the pointed form, was less ornamented, and evidently in an earlier style of architecture.

Here is also an antient stone-roofed chapel, usually termed *St. Kieran's chapel.*

Five Crosses were raised in different parts of this cemetery. Of these we are told, that one was erected in 1073, in memory of Con. O' Melaghlin, King of Meath, murdered that year by his nephew; a second in 1100, to O'Heyne, Dynast, or petty King, of Siol-muireadhy; a third to Rory-ma-Suighe-buidhe O'Conor, King of Conaught, *anno* 1118; and a fourth to Tordelvach O'Conor, monarch of Ireland, (father of Roderick, last monarch,) who died 20th May, 1155, aged 68.* Two of the above crosses are still in a tolerable state of preservation, and are of large proportions. That situated near the west door of Temple Mac Dermod is fifteen feet in height, and is ornamented in every part with rude but elaborate sculptural representations and devices.†

* Montmorency MSS.

† The sculpture on this curious cross is thus described by Dr. Ledwich (*Antiqs. &c.* p. 76.) "The figures are commemorative of St. Kieran; and the re-edification of the church by Dean Odo. The eastern side is divided into compartments. Its centre, or head and arms, exhibit St. Kieran at full length, being the patron of Clonmacnois. In one hand he holds an

In the vicinity of the ecclesiastical ruins at this place are two Round, or Pillar, Towers, now denominated, from circumstances of contiguous building or sepulture, O'Rourke's tower, and the tower of Mac Carthy-more. The former, which is destitute of roofing, is, according to Archdall, sixty-two feet in height; the walls are three feet eight inches in thickness. Mac Carthy's tower is fifty-six feet high, and seven feet in diameter, within. The walls are three feet in thickness. This tower is attached to the building termed Mac Carthy's Church, a small and decayed structure, of considerable antiquity. The arch of the choir still remains, and is well executed. The door of the tower opens into the church, and is level with the present surface.

A religious house for Nuns was founded here at an early period.

hammer, and in the other a mallet, expressing his descent, his father being a carpenter. Near him are three men and a dog dancing, and in the arms are eight men more, and above the Saint is the portrait of Dean Odo. The men are the artificers employed by Odo, who show their joy for the honour done to their patron. On the shaft are two men, one stripping the other of his old garments, alluding to the new repairs. Under these are two soldiers, with their swords ready to defend the church and religion. Next are Adam and Eve and the tree of life, and beneath an imperfect Irish inscription. On the pedestal are equestrian and chariot sports. On the north side is a pauper carrying a child, indicating the Christian virtue, Charity. Below these a shepherd plays on his pipe, and under him is an ecclesiastic sitting in a chair, holding a teacher's formula, on the top of which is an owl, the symbol of Wisdom, and its end rests on a beast, denoting Ignorance. The other sides are finely adorned with lozenge network, nebule mouldings, roses and flowers."

A great part of this description appears to be extremely fanciful, and is probably erroneous. The carvings are evidently of much greater antiquity than the re-edification effected by Odo, which is said to have taken place about the year 1280. In some strictures on Dr. Ledwich, by a very able writer in the *Gent's Mag.* for 1792, are the following remarks: "The histories on the shaft are *scriptural*. The first on the south side may be the *baptism of Christ*, as on the Birdkirk font in *Archæologia*, vol. ii. p. 121: the second, two apostles, one, perhaps, St. Paul, with a sword. *The pauper carrying a child*, on the north side, is evidently St. Christopher carrying the infant Jesus. *The shepherd playing on his pipe*, with two sheep at his feet, is the *Pastor bonus*."

In the year 1180, the church of this nunnery, "together with the houses in the church-yard," was destroyed by accidental fire. Dervorgilla, the daughter of Murrough O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, and wife of Tiernan O'Roirk, rebuilt the fabric. A circular arch (engraved in Ware's works by Harris, vol. i.) is now the only architectural vestige of that structure. At the distance of about one furlong from the ruined cathedral and abbey, are the remains of the bishop's palace, a strong but rude building, reduced, at the present day, to an uninteresting mass of ruin.

The spacious cemetery of Clonmacnois is still greatly venerated as a place of burial. The patron day, or anniversary of St. Kieran, is very numerously attended. In the Statistical Survey of this parish, inserted in the work of Mr. Shaw Mason, it is said that "from 3000 to 4000 persons assemble here on that day (the 9th of September) to do penance, from different parts of Ireland, even from the county of Donegall. Tents and booths are erected round the church-yard, for the accommodation of the people." Clonmacnois is now a vicarage, in the gift of the Bishop of Meath. The nearest village is *Shannon-bridge* (so called from a bridge thrown over the river Shannon) where there are small barracks, and some other buildings connected with the military establishment.

BANAGHER, a small but respectable town, is situated on the banks of the Shannon, at the western extremity of this county. The surrounding country is flat,* and in parts subject to inconvenience from the overflowing of the river Shannon. In the vicinity of this place is *Moystown*, a good house with an improving demesne, belonging to the family of L'Estrange.

CLOCHAN, a small town or village, four miles to the east of Banagher, consists chiefly of neat dwellings, white-washed and

* In the neighbourhood of Banagher are very extensive bogs, from ten to twenty-five feet in depth; beneath which (according to a MS. by the late Mr. Beauford, now in the possession of the present writer) are often discovered traces of ancient forests and paved roads.

thatched with straw. The building now used as a barrack for a troop of horse, was formerly the manorial residence of the Mac Coghlan family, and was sold to government by the late Thomas Coghlan, Esq. styled "the Maw," whose descent and character have been noticed, at some length, in a preceding page.

CLOGHAN CASTLE is situated in the parish of Lusmagh, which district was taken from Galway at the time of dividing this part of the country into shire ground, O'Madden being then the old proprietor. The castle of Lusmagh was taken by storm, A.D. 1595, by Sir William Russell, lord deputy, who put forty-six of the garrison to the sword, in consequence of what was deemed the audacious conduct of O'Madden. When that chief was summoned to surrender, he boldly replied "that he would not yield, even if the whole army were *deputies*." A Franciscan friary was founded at Cloghan-Cantualaig, by O'Madden, early in the fifteenth century. The present proprietor of Cloghan castle is Garret Moore, Esq. descended, as is said, from a branch of the family of O'More, of Leix.

The small town of **FRANKFORD** is seated on the Silver river, and is a place of some traffic, as a market for grain. Here is a Charter-school, designed for forty children. A Monastery for Carmelites, or White Friars, was founded at this place in the fifteenth century, by Odo, the son of Nellan O'Molloy, dynast of Fearcal. The founder died on the feast of St. Remigius, (St. Remy) *anno* 1454, and was interred in front of the high altar. On the suppression of monasteries, this house, and its dependancies, were granted to Robert Leycester, of Clouneryell,* in this county, gent.

From the family of Leycester this estate passed, by a marriage, into the family of Magawley, or Macaulay, antient dynasts of Colry, deriving from the sept of O'Neill; in which family it is still vested. Count Magawley-Cerrati, of Parma (a count of the Roman empire) the present proprietor, now or lately filled a high

* Now termed *Cloncarl*, and at present the seat of the Magan family.

station in the councils of the Archduchess Mary-Louise, of Austria, widow of the Ex-Emperor Napoleon. The seat (but unfortunately not the residence) of this family, termed *Temora*, is situated in the vicinity of the town of Frankford.

BROGHILL CASTLE, situated on the Silver river, near the above town, was formerly the chief seat of O'Molloy, dynast of Fearcal, and was also, at one time, held by the sept of O'Conor-Faly. This castle was taken, in the year 1538, by Lord Grey, then lord deputy. At the great period of forfeiture, in the seventeenth century, it fell into the provident hands of Sir William Petty. The estate of Broghill was sold, by the late Marquess of Lansdown, to — Fitz Simmons, Esq. the present proprietor.

BALYBOY, a town of little consideration, imparts its name to a barony, which is situated in the district formerly constituting part of the territory of Fearcall—O'Molloy.* The principal historical event connected with this town, relates to the wars of the seventeenth century. In the month of October, 1690, a detachment of General Sarsfield's army, which had been encamped between Limerick and Athlone, took Balyboy by surprise, although the garrison comprised six companies of Lord Drogheda's regiment of foot. After killing and wounding many English soldiers, the assailants retreated in good order, but not without sustaining some loss from the English, who had rallied and pursued them.

In this neighbourhood are several handsome mansions, amongst

* The chief of the O'Molloys obtained, at an early period, by a grant from the crown, the office of hereditary standard-bearer in Ireland, of the king of England. An additional and official coat of arms was granted to that chief at the same time, viz. *vert*, a mounted knight in armour, the horse *argent*, and bearing in his hand the British standard, *proper*. It must be remarked, however, that O'Hanlon, of Orior, also lays claim to the same office. O'Molloy of Ughterheere, otherwise O'Molloy's Hall, Co. of Roscommon, which place is now called Coote Hall, is supposed to be the chief of the name of O'Molloy. There are still in the King's County some respectable families belonging to this sept, and the ruins of many ancient castles attest their former consequence and dignity.

which must be noticed *Palace*, the highly-improved seat of the Malone family, and *Droughtville*,* and *Whigsborough*, seats of the family of Drought.

At RATHLIN, OF RATHBISTHEN, an Abbey was founded by St. Blau, who flourished A. D. 540. In the ruins of the ancient church was preserved, during many ages, a statue of the saint. The image represented a prelate, in *pontificalibus*, holding in one hand the episcopal staff, or crozier. A sacrilegious hand, writes Colgan, broke off the head of this venerable statue, not many years back. Here was a castle of the O'Molloys, forfeited by Conolly Molloy, in 1641.

BIRR, sometimes called *Parsonstown*, is a neat and flourishing town, distant from Dublin 64 miles. This place formerly constituted the chief seat of O'Carroll, dynast of Ely-O'Carroll, but was lost to the old proprietor, amidst the numerous forfeitures in the year 1641. The family of Parsons (now Earl of Rosse and Baron Oxmantown) have held this estate, and resided at Birr, from the date of the restoration of Charles II. down to the present time. To this family the town is entirely indebted for its improvements and prosperity. Formerly a small and mean village, it has become, under the fostering care of the Parsons family, a well-built, populous, and commercial town, the resort of many families of distinction. Several eligible public buildings have been lately erected. The Church is a modern structure, built of stone, in a highly-enriched modification of the pointed style. It requires to be noticed, although the erection is not very orna-

* In the vicinity of Droughtville is the ancient church of Drumceath, now in ruins. It is observed by Sir C. Oooto, that "The surrounding plains have been the scenes of bloody battles, as, within a spade's depth, vast quantities of human bones are found. Each height has yet the vestiges of ancient fortification, and, on a very strong rath, which commands the whole district, there remains an entire fort, of most difficult access, defended by a regular and double course of works, still in great preservation. The rath has been planted by Mr. Drought, and has a striking effect in this truly romantic scene."—Statistical Survey, p. 100.

mental to the town, that there is at this place a pedestrian statue of William, Duke of Cumberland, standing on a column of considerable height. This statue, which is cast in lead, and painted stone-colour, was erected in the year 1747.

Birr, although not greatly distinguished in history, has been the theatre of some military transactions. Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, laid siege to the Castle at this place, in support of the usurpation of one of the O'Carrolls, who was his son-in-law, to the detriment of the lawful heir. The earl received a wound in his head, from which he never entirely recovered; and, on experiencing that accident, withdrew his troops and returned home. Shortly afterwards he was arrested, and sent prisoner to the Tower of London; which circumstance occasioned the rebellion of the earl's son, Lord Thomas Fitzgerald. The lords-deputy Grey and Brabazon respectively besieged, and reduced, this castle. Teig O'Carroll, submitting to the latter in 1549, was created, by Edward VI. Baron of Ely, but only for his own life.

The *Castle of Birr*, formerly the residence of the O'Carrolls, has been entirely rebuilt by the Parsons family, and has recently been much enlarged and improved, chiefly after the designs of the late Mr. John Johnston, architect. Under the new arrangement which has taken place, in attention to the spirit of these improvements, the former back of the house is now converted into the principal front, and is ornamented in imitation of castellated architecture. The alterations of the interior are entitled to high commendation. An air of distinguished elegance pervades the principal apartments; and the drawing-room is justly celebrated for excellence of proportions and beauty of disposal. The noble proprietor of this seat, Laurence Parsons, Earl of Rosse, and Baron Oxmantown, is author of several useful tracts respecting Ireland, and has directed his studies, with equal ardour and good taste, towards the history and antiquities of the island.

The country surrounding Birr abounds in bog, and has little claim to natural beauty in any respect; but many ornamental seats are found in this district, and the prevailing dreary aspect of the country is curiously, and finely, ameliorated by the highly-im-

proved demesnes attached to several of these mansions of resident gentry.

Amongst the most distinguished seats in the vicinity of this town, is *GLOUCESTER*, or *GLOSTER*, the noble demesne of the Lloyde family. The present Earl of Rosse is allied with this very respectable family, having married, in the year 1797, Alice, daughter of John Lloyde, of Gloster, Esq.

CASTLE-BERNARD (formerly *Castletown*) another spacious seat in this neighbourhood, is the residence of Thomas Bernard, Esq. one of the representatives for the King's County in the imperial parliament. The castle on this estate was built originally by the family of O'Carroll.—William O'Carroll, of Castletown (who was living in 1630,) married Grany, daughter to Daniel Mac Gílfóyle, of Shinrone, in this county, Esq. chief of his sept. Kyan O'Carroll, son and heir of the above-named William, forfeited the Castletown estate in 1641; and the property then passed to the family of Winter. John Pratt Winter, of Agher-house, in the county of Meath, Esq. is seized of this manor in fee; but it is leased, for ever, to Mr. Bernard, at a yearly rent.

THE LEAP, a castle so termed, situated between the towns of Birr and Roscrea, was formerly a strong hold of the O'Carrolls, and is now the improved and very desirable residence of the Darby family.*

* Many traditional tales are carefully preserved concerning this antient, and originally fortified, seat.—It is said that a barbarous massacre was perpetrated, in the sixteenth century, by "O'Carroll of the Leap," upon very numerous persons, belonging to a rival branch of his own sept, whom he had basely invited to a feast, under the mask of friendship. If this story have a real foundation, it probably refers to Teig, Baron of Ely; for we read, that, when Edward VI. signified his wish of granting to O'Carroll a patent for his estate, the king was advised against that measure by the Lord Deputy Grey, who gave as a reason that the person for whom the favour was designed, "*was false*." It may be noticed, as an instance of the lasting, and almost indelible, effect of such denunciations amongst the

At SEIR KERAN, or SAIGER, distant four miles from the town of Birr, a monastery and bishopric were founded, at an early period, dedicated to St. Kieran, who is often styled the "Father of Irish Saints." This abbey was frequently plundered by the Danes and other freebooters. We are told, in the annals of Ianisfallen, that, anno 1144, Conor O'Connor, King of Meath, was slain at *Beallach-muine-na-Sirridh* (this place) by O'Douley, King of Fearcall. The see of Seir Keran was removed, in 1052, to Aghaboe; and was finally translated, in the latter part of the twelfth century, to Kilkenny.—We must not omit to observe that, anno 1284, the bishop Geoffrey de St. Leger recovered, by the trial of single combat, the manor of Seir-Kieran, as forming a part of the see-lands of his diocese.

DUNKERRIN, nominally a fair town, but, in reality, a small and mean village, is situated in a tongue of land that runs into the county of Tipperary, and is called the barony of Clonlisk. The O'Carrolls, Mac Gilfoyles, O'Daigans, and De Mariscos were the antient proprietors. The Parochial Church, a capacious and appropriate structure, was completed in 1818, with the aid of £1200, obtained, in way of loan, from the Board of First Fruits. Here is a Charter School, designed for 50 girls. In the vicinity of the town is the handsome seat of the Rolleston family.

BUSHERSTOWN, the seat of the Minchin family, was originally called BOUCHARDSTOWN, and formerly belonged to the De Mariscos. *Bouchard* de Marisco, from whom the name of this place is derived, left a daughter and heir, who married O'Carroll,

Irish, that this character for falsehood, or treachery, created a prepossession, in this part of the country, against the name of O'Carroll, which scarcely expired with the last male representative of the "O'Carrolls of the Leap," who died at Lisbon, in the year 1759.—Story ("Hist. of the Wars in Ireland," &c.) relates, under the year 1691, many anecdotes of the dexterity of "one Captain Darby, of the Leap," who, according to that writer, was eminent for his exploits against certain noted *Rapparees*.

of Clonlisk and Couloge. Teig O'Carroll forfeited this estate in 1641, and his posterity sank into obscurity and want!

LAUGHTON, distant one mile from *Monygall*, is the name of a handsome mansion and well-improved demesne, the property of Thomas Ryder Pepper, Esq. Amongst other seats in this part of the county must be mentioned *Green-hills*; *Belyntemple*; and *Cangort*.

END OF KING'S COUNTY.

MEATH.

THE district formerly termed *Midhe*, *Miadhnanagh*, or *Mfeuth*,* comprehending the present counties of Meath, Westmeath, and Longford, together with parts of Cavan, Kildare, and the King's County, constituted an antient principality of great strength and importance, "the princes or chiefs of which," says Beauford, "frequently styled themselves kings of Ireland." It is observed by the same writer, in the eleventh number of the Collectanea, that, "according to several Irish poems and MSS, *Midhe*, in the early and middle ages, was, as at present, divided into two parts, that is, east and west; the eastern part, or East Meath, was denominated *Oireamhoin*, or eastern country; and the western part, or West Meath, *Eiricamhoin*; whence the *Heremon* of the Irish poems and romances." Some authors assert that this district was at one time set apart as the *appenage*, or mensal lands, of the "monarch" of Ireland, under the name of *Fearon Buird Righ Eriou*.

This province suffered severely from the incursions of the Danes, to whom its fertile lands afforded a tempting booty. Upon the entry of the English, Meath, then wrested from the family of O'Melaghlin, its Irish possessors and princes, was bestowed by King Henry II. on Hugh de Lacy, to be held by the service of fifty knights; and by that potent lord the territory was subdivided, and parts granted to various of his friends and followers. With an obvious and commendable policy, De Lacy endeavoured to advance the security of his large possessions by the erection of numerous castles and strong holds; and the same precautionary duty he enjoined upon his military tenants. It is well known, however, that a fortified recess was often the instrument of

* In an antient MS. poem, reposit in the noble collection at Stowe, is an attempt to explain the name of Meath in fifty-four verses, beginning *Midhe-Maigin nambar mear*; Meath, plain of swift-sailing ships!

tyranny, in the hands of factious and aspiring barons. Thus, the history of Meath, throughout the middle ages, presents a constant succession of family disputes, terminating in battle, siege, and all the horrors of civil war on a circumscribed scale.* In the thirty-fourth of Henry VIII., Meath was divided, by authority of parliament, into the two counties of East and West Meath; but Longford remained an integral part of the latter division until the reign of Elizabeth.

The county of Meath is bounded towards the north by Cavan, Monaghan, and Louth. On the east its limits are formed, for a small extent, by the Irish sea. Towards the south-east lies the county of Dublin. On the south is Kildare, and on the west the county of Westmeath. The greatest length, measuring from east to west, is about thirty-five miles; and the extreme width about twenty-nine miles. Thus, in point of size, it ranks as tenth amongst the counties of Ireland. The soil is, in general, rich,

* The following particulars, relating to the county of Meath, are extracted from the MS. collections of Sir W. Betham. In the first year of Henry VI. the commons and clergy granted a subsidy to the king, the former of 360 marks, the latter of 120 marks, in aid of the war against O'Connor Faley and the Berminghams, who greatly distressed this county by their inroads. The same year another subsidy was granted by the commons and clergy, who, considering the probable conquest of the said county by O'Connor Faley and the Berminghams, had applied to the lords justices for aid, at whose instance James, Earl of Desmond, with 5000 horse and foot from Munster, went to the said O'Connor and Bermingham's country, and destroyed the country and burnt their corn, &c. and completely humbled them, stopping there thirteen days, for the expenses of which expedition Richard Nugent, Baron of Delvin, seneschal of the liberties of Meath, became security, and delivered himself to the earl as hostage for the payment. For his relief was charged 13s. 4d. on every carucate of land in Meath, and 20d. on every librate of land for goods and chattels. *Rot. Pat. B. T.* The following sums were to be levied on the hargesses of respective towns; and the notice of them will give some idea of the relative importance of those places at that period; Dyvelek 13s. 4d.; Rathouth 10s.; Grenok 10s.; Dunboyne 13s. 4d.; Dunshaghy 2 marks; Navan 10s.; Slane 10s.; Sydan 6s. 8d.; Nobyv 3s. 4d.; Kenlys 20s.; Dromcuvragh 3s. 4d.; Athboy 20s.; Four 3s. 4d.; Kyllallon 2s.; Rathweyr 3s. 4d.; Molyngar 6s. 8d.; Stamolyn 6s. 8d.; Kilyb 3s. 4d.

consisting, most commonly, of a strong and deep clay upon a substratum of limestone gravel. Here are few elevations entitled to the character of mountains, and but little bog. A great part of the county is occupied by valuable pasture grounds, divided by verdant banks; and the general aspect of the country may be described as that of an undulating plain.

The farms vary greatly in size, but are often very extensive. The crops commonly cultivated are wheat, oats, barley, horse, flax, mealin, clover, flax, and potatoes. Amongst crops only partially cultivated we are sorry, considering their unquestionable value, to enumerate turnips, vetches, peas and beans. Notwithstanding the richness of the pasture-grounds, there are few dairies of considerable extent, and the butter made in this county is not held in much estimation. Great attention has been lately paid to the improvement of live stock; but, in regard to the general system of grazing, Meath must be considered as a feeding, rather than a breeding, or rearing, country. The farm-houses, except when they belong to persons occupying extensive tracts of land, are, in general, wretched huts, formed of earth or clay; and, as they are ruined at the expense of the tenant, are not designed to last longer than the term of his lease;—a period often too long for the duration of tenements so fragile and sordid.

Ordinary language can scarcely express the mingled astonishment and regret of the examiner, on finding thus miserable the dwellings of those who farm one of the most fertile districts in Ireland, a region smiling in abundant gifts of nature; and the pain of his reflections is increased when he views the still more cheerless abodes of the peasantry, who constitute the great bulk of population in a soil so genial. These hovels, except on favoured spots where affluent residents yield pecuniary assistance, or communicate the still greater benefits of judicious advice and inspiring example, are invariably composed of mud, are usually without chimneys, and are too often not proof against the winds and rains of inclement seasons. In these forlorn habitations, as is observed by Mr. Thompson, in the *Agricultural Survey of Meath*,

"the hog is generally an inmate; the hens constantly; and if the tenant is possessed of a cow, she also is introduced; and becomes one of the family."

Although this district is not eminently rich in minerals, copper-ore is discovered in considerable abundance. Slate, ochres, and potters'-clay are also found in different parts of the county. The chief manufactures are those of sacking, dowlas, and coarse linens.

The principal rivers are the *Boyne*; the *Blackwater*; the *Nannay*; and the *Borora*. The "pleasant Boyne," as this river is, with strict propriety, designated by Spencer, flows through the county from south-west to north-east, dividing it nearly into two equal parts. Its banks are in several places decorated with noble mansions, and afford numerous soft and picturesque views. The Blackwater, which takes its rise in Lough Ramar, falls into the Boyne at the town of Navan. The Nannay, and many subordinate streams, intersect the country in various directions. A want of wood prevails throughout the county, except in the vicinity of family seats. The climate is believed to be colder than in the more westerly parts of Ireland.

The mansions of nobility and gentry are numerous, throughout every district, and in several instances are spacious and splendid.

Although, from the want of bold inequalities, this county is not peculiarly attractive to the pictorial traveller, it yields, with few deviations, the grateful aspect of a rich and highly-cultivated surface. To the antiquary it affords an abundant field of gratification. Earth-works, the vestiges of very remote ages, are extremely numerous, and in some examples, as particularly in that of New Grange, near Slane, are of unusual interest. Remains of castellated structures, the decayed memorials of De Lacy's policy, and of a long train of subsequent feuds, are also frequently seen. The ecclesiastical structures of past ages, venerable and picturesque in all the various stages of decay, abound in nearly every part of the county; and in their vicinity are still remaining several ruinous crosses, of elaborate workmanship.

It will be readily believed that few parochial churches of high

antiquity are now existing, in a good state of preservation, when we hold in remembrance the representation made by Sir Henry Sydney to Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1576. That able viceroy submitted to her majesty, that there were, at that time, within this diocess, 224 parish churches, the state of which he thus describes. "In maney places the very walles of the churches are doane; very few chauncells covered; the wyndowes and dores ruyned, or spoyled. There are 52 parishe churches in the same dioces, who have vicars indued upon them, better served and mayntained than the other, yet but badlye. There are 52 parishe churches more, residue of the first number of 224, which pertain to dyvers particular lordes, and these, though in better estate then the rest commonlye are, yet farre from well." Many churches in this diocess were rebuilt early in the seventeenth century; and we have great pleasnee in observing that the instances of renovation are still more numerous in years since that period. Fifty parochial churches have been built in Meath, since the commencement of the year 1800.

The county of Meath (which affords the title of Earl to the family of Brabazon) is politically divided, according to the Agricultural Survey, into two districts, separated by the Boyne; one called the district of Kells, comprising the baronies of *Slane*; *Mergallion*; *Kells*; *Fowre*; *Lune*, and *Navan*; and the other, called the Division of Dunshaughlin, comprehending *Duleagh*; *Shrino*; *Ratoath*; *Dunboyne*; *Deece*; and *Mayfenchath*. These twelve baronies are subdivided into 147 parishes, the whole of which are in the diocess of Meath. One half of a parish in the bishopric of Kilmore, and a part of a parish in that of Armagh, are also situated in this county.

Mr. Edmund Hyde Hall, in his valuable analysis of the Down Survey, prefixed to the second volume of Mr. Shaw Mason's Statistical account of Ireland, observes that "a remarkable, and a troublesome, feature belonging to the baronies in the county of Meath, is, that several of them have detached parts, enchased in others."

The number of houses and inhabitants, according to the returns made under the population act of 1812, is as follows :

Baronies, or Half Baronies,	Number of Houses.	Gross Population.
Deece, Lower	662	3,548
Deece, Upper	732	4,066
Duleek, Upper	1,338	7,827
Duleek, Lower	1,560	8,996
Dunboyne,	338	2,163
Fower half	2,017	10,753
Kells, Lower	2,076	11,604
Kells, Upper	2,887	15,808
Lune,	1,702	8,859
Morgallion,	1,729	9,438
Moyfenragh,	1,699	9,529
Moyfenragh, Upper	1,993	7,069
Navan, Lower	2,493	13,027
Navan, Upper	718	3,682
Ratoath,	866	5,289
Slane, Lower	1,443	7,790
Slane, Upper	1,180	6,519
Skreen,	1,190	7,197
TOTAL.....	35,921	148,479

According to the returns obtained in the year 1821, the number of houses in this county was then 30,492, and the number of inhabitants 174,716; making an increase of inhabitants, since the year 1813, to the number of 32,237.

THE DIOCESS OF MEATH,

Which now extends over parts of six counties, has been progressively formed from several small bishoprics. "There were formerly," observes Sir J. Ware, "many episcopal sees in Meath, as Clonard; Duleek; Kells; Trim; Ardbracon; Dunshaghlin; Slane; and Foure; besides others of less note, all which, except Kells, or Kenanuse, were consolidated, and their common see was fixed at Clonard, before the year 1152, at which time the divisions of the bishopricks of Ireland were made by John Paparo,

legate from Pope Eugene III. to the Irish. The two sees of Duleek and Kells afterwards submitted to the same fate."

The bishopric of Clonard was founded in the person of St. Finian, an eminent philosopher and divine, who had resided for some time with St. David, Bishop of Menevia, and who established a school at Clonard, which produced many men of eminent sanctity and learning. This prelate died about the year 548, and is termed by Archbishop Ussher "the chief of the saints of the second order in Ireland." There are but few memorial preserved concerning the successors of St. Finian, until the arrival of the English and the removal of the see. Simon Rochfort, an Englishman, was the last Bishop who sat at Clonard, and it is observable that several intervening prelates, whilst remaining in that see, had used the style and title of bishops of Meath.

We refer to other pages a brief notice of inferior sees, now merged in this bishopric, and continue the immediate history of the diocese of Meath, by observing that, about the year 1206, Simon Rochfort translated his episcopal chair to the abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul, at Newtown, near Trim, which he had recently founded. In the year 1568, the bishopric of Clonmacnois was incorporated with this see, by act of parliament. The succession of prelates, from Bishop Rochfort to the existing date, may be stated as follows, on the authority of Ware and Harris, aided by information afforded by the Office of First Fruits, Dublin.

BISHOPS OF MEATH.

	Succ.
Simon Rochfort*	1194
Deodat	1224
Ralph le Petit	1227
Richard de la Corner	1230

* In regard to the date of this prelate's succession we follow Sir J. Ware; but Mr. Harris, in his additions to that writer, suggests the probability of bishop Rochfort being advanced to this see some years previous to 1194. His virtues in his high office are much praised by his biographer. †

	[Succ.
Hugh de Tachmon*	1250
Thomas St. Leger	1287
John O' Caroll	1321
William de Paul	1327
William St. Leger	1350
Nicholas Allen†	1353
<i>See Vacant three years.</i>	
Stephen de Valle, or Wale	1369
William Andrew	1380
Alexander Petit, or de Balscot‡	1386
<i>See Vacant nearly two years.</i>	
Robert Montain	1402
Edward Dantsey	1413
William Hadsor	1430
William Silk	1434
Edmund Ouldhal	1450
William Sherwood §	1460
John Pain ¶	1483

* Hugh de Tachmon was lord high treasurer of Ireland, in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I.

† This bishop was lord high treasurer of Ireland, in 1357, but did not long retain that office. Stephen de Valle, his successor, was also appointed to the same dignity.

‡ This prelate filled the offices of lord high treasurer, chancellor, and lord justice of Ireland.

|| Lord high treasurer; and (in 1428) lord deputy to Sir John de Gray, lord lieutenant of Ireland.

§ For some time deputy to George, Duke of Clarence, lord lieutenant of Ireland.

¶ This bishop was actively engaged in the politics of his day, and was the zealous partizan, for some time, of Gerald, Earl of Kildare, in conjunction with whom he used many exertions to place Lambert Simnel on the throne. In the prosecution of these efforts he was appointed to preach the sermon, and proclaim the title of that impostor, at his coronation in Dublin.

	[Succ.]
William Rokeby	1507
Hugh Inge	1512
Richard Wilson	1523
Edward Staples*	1530
William Walsh †	1554
Hugh Brady ‡	1563
Thomas Jones	1584
Roger Dod	1605
George Mountgomery	1610
James Ussher 	1621
Anthony Martin§	1625
Henry Lealy	1660
Henry Jones	1681
Anthony Dopping ¶	1681
Richard Tennison	1697
William Moreton	1705
John Evans	1715
Henry Downs	1724
Ralph Lambert	1726
Welbore Ellis	1731

* Deprived in the reign of Mary, for endeavouring to advance the Reformation.

† Deprived in the reign of Elizabeth, for obstructing the Reformation.

‡ The see was so poor when Bishop Brady received the temporalities, that a respite of five years was granted for his payment of the First Fruits.

| This celebrated prelate is again mentioned amongst the archbishops of Armagh.

§ The sufferings of this manly and conscientious bishop, in the troubles of the seventeenth century, are very impressively stated in Ware's Hist. of the Bishops. He died at Dublin, oppressed with extreme poverty, and with the frowns of evil men and evil days, in July, 1650, of the plague, which then raged in that city.

¶ An unusual clause was inserted into the letters-patent by which this bishop was translated to Meath, stating that he should be admitted into the privy-council. "I am of opinion," writes Sir J. Ware, "that from hence, and for that the bishops of Meath have frequently been privy-councillors, hath sprung that vulgar notion that the bishops of Meath are privy-councillors in right of their bishoprick."

	Succ.
Arthur Price	1733
Henry Manlé	1744
Hon. William Carmichael	1758
Richard Pocock	1768
Arthur Smythe	1768
Hon. Henry Maxwell	1766
Thomas Lewis O'Beirne	1769
Nathaniel Alexander	1792

The Bishop of Meath has no cathedral-church ; and the constitution of the diocese possesses several peculiarities. There is no chapter, nor is there a dean. The only dignitaries are the dean of Clonmacnois and the archdeacon of Meath. As a substitute for a chapter, there is held a synod, of which every beneficed clergyman within the diocese is a member. This synod uses a common seal, which is repositied in the hands of members named by the vote of the majority. The bishopric is divided into twelve rural deaneries. The diocese is in length about eighty, and in breadth about twenty-five English miles ; and comprehends, in the county of Meath, 147 parishes ; in Cavan one ; in Longford one ; in Westmeath fifty-nine ; in King's County sixteen ; and in Kildare part of one parish.—In our general statement of the ecclesiastical division of Ireland, we have remarked that the bishop of Meath has precedence of all other suffragans in this country.

TRIN,

The assize town of the county of Meath, is situated on the banks of the river Boyne, at the distance of 22½ miles from Dublin. This is a considerable town, but its chief dependance for interest with the traveller, rests on the ruins of its noble castle, formerly the most potent fortress within the Lord de Lacy's territories. The principal historical events, connected with this place, will be narrated in our notice of that decaying structure, and the monastic foundations which once flourished here. Such as are of general application may be briefly stated.

Trim is first mentioned, in the annals of Ireland, as the place at which a church was built, and a bishopric founded, by a sainted ecclesiastic, the nephew of St. Patrick. After this see was united to the bishopric of Meath, the town remained of some consequence, on account of an abbey, founded at the same time with the bishopric, which increased in prosperity through several centuries. The most historical notices bear reference to scenes of rapine and conflagration. In the year 1106, Conner O'Melaghlin, as we are told by McGeaghagan, burnt this town, on which occasion 400 persons, who had fled to the church for protection, perished in the flames: The town was also destroyed by fire in the years 1143, and 1185. Trim constituted a principal city and strong hold of Hugh de Lacy, lord of Meath, and was the scene of sanguinary contention in the civil broils which took place between Sir Hugh de Lacy, the younger, and William, Earl of Pembroke: It underwent a regular siege from the latter nobleman, and was with difficulty maintained against his arms. As the strength of the English settlers increased, Trim acquired a considerable acquisition of importance. Several parliaments were held here. A mint was established in 1469, and Richard, Duke of York, whilst lord Lieutenant of Ireland, resided for some time in this town, the lordship of which was vested in himself.

In the civil wars of the seventeenth century this place, on account of its strength and position between Dublin and Drogheda, obtained an extraordinary degree of notice, and was at different times occupied by both contending parties. The town surrendered, after a siege of two days, to Lord Inchiquin, at the head of a royalist force; and was given up to Cromwell, without a struggle, directly after the horrible slaughter perpetrated by that commander on the inhabitants of Drogheda. Whilst the town was possessed by the parliament party, in 1643, it became the scene of a skirmish that proved fatal to Sir Charles Coote, of ensanguined memory. The Irish beset the town, at the break of day, in a tumultuous party, said to have been 3000 strong: Sir Charles, on the first alarm, issued from the gates, at the head of a few horse soldiers, leaving others to follow as quickly as they could

master. In the charge which he made upon the assailants, Coote was shot dead, and it was thought that the ball was discharged by one of his own troopers. This event occurred on the seventh of May.

The Castle, which forms the most conspicuous and attractive object in the town of Trim, was first built by Hugh de Lacy, or, as some writers assert, by William Pipard, or Reppard, at a still earlier period after the arrival of the English. Its strength and extent, as at this day evinced by the ruins, show that it was designed for the principal station in the defence of the palatinates, and it, consequently, became the scene of many important events.—Whilst De Lacy was absent in England, the custody of this fortress was intrusted to his confidential adherent, Hugh Tyrrel. Raymond le Gros was at that time in Wexford, engaged in celebrating his nuptials with the sister of Earl Strongbow. At this juncture, apparently favourable to the enemies of the British settlers, Roderic O'Connor, King of Connaught, at the head of a large confederate army, suddenly entered the territory of Meath, spreading ruin in the track of his march. On the advance of this powerful enemy, Tyrrel destroyed the fortifications, and abandoned the castle of Trim. At the approach of Raymond, who quitted his nuptial festivities to succour the harassed palatinates, the Irish retired, and the fortress was quickly repaired.

We have observed that during the ferocious contests between Hugh de Lacy the younger and William Earl of Pembroke, Trim was besieged by the forces of the latter nobleman, but was defended with much gallantry, and escaped capture. It is generally believed that the existing castellated structure was built by the younger De Lacy, subsequent to that siege, about the year 1190; in which belief, as respects the greater part of the buildings, we are warranted by the architectural character of the fortress.

When private dissensions yielded to public exigency, the castle of Trim proved of great utility to the general interests of that narrow pale, to which the influence of the English was confined for many ages. It may be noticed, as a curious particular

of local history, that King Richard II, when in Ireland in the year 1399, on obtaining intelligence of the successful progress in England of his rival, and eventual successor, the Duke of Lancaster, sent as prisoners to this castle, Henry, the son of that duke, and a son of the Duke of Gloucester, who had attended him in his Irish expedition. It will be recollected that the first-named of these illustrious prisoners was afterwards King Henry Vth.

In the year 1493, Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March and Ulster, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, died in this castle. We have already mentioned that Richard Duke of York, father of Edward IV, resided here for some time, and that several parliaments were here assembled. It has also been stated, in our brief annals of the town of Trim, that this fortress was, at several times, a scene of action in the intestine wars of the seventeenth century. The castle was dismantled soon after the year 1600, and has since remained in a state of progressive decay. The ruins overhang the banks of the river Boyne, and present a magnificent, and, at some points of view, a picturesque spectacle. The remains show the building to have been erected in what has been termed, in the *Introduction to the Beauties of England*, the mixed Anglo-Norman style of military architecture; a mode of arrangement in fortified structures which grew into use in the early part of the thirteenth century. Considerable tracts of outworks are still to be seen.

The following religious foundations added at once to the wealth, influence, and celebrity of this place, in ages previous to the reformation.

The Abbey, to which we have already adverted, as having been founded by St. Patrick; was occupied with *Canons regular*, and placed under the invocation of the Virgin Mary. The church acted as the cathedral of Trim, until the union of this see with that of Meath. The buildings suffered severely in the various assaults to which the town was exposed, and were re-edified by the De Lacy family, towards the close of the thirteenth century, but were again destroyed by fire in 1868. On the dissolution of religious houses, the principal estates of this abbey, which were

very extensive, were granted to Sir Anthony St. Legor, Knt. Among its possessions were eighty acres of land, called *Port-feld*, situated near the abbey, which were given to this society by Richard Duke of York. The abbot and monks appear to have been much attached to the princes of the house of York, as were, indeed, nearly all classes in this part of Ireland. In 1467, the abbot Christopher went to England, on an embassy to King Edward IV.; and a future abbot was an active supporter of the impostor Lambert Simnel.

Among the reliques and curiosities possessed by this abbey, was an image of the Virgin Mary, celebrated throughout the kingdom for the performance of miracles. In the year 1539, this far-famed image was publicly burned by the agents of the reformation. Some remains of the church are still to be seen, comprising one half of the steeple, termed the yellow tower. It is traditionally said that the ruined part of this tower was battered down, in the wars of the seventeenth century.

The Franciscan or Grey Friary, dedicated to St. Bonaventure, was founded, as is most commonly believed, by the Flunket family, in the thirteenth century. This friary was reformed by the Observantines, before the year 1335. It is recorded by Pembroke that the river Boyne overflowing its banks, A. D. 1350, the buildings of this religious house were undermined, and much of the fabric fell to the ground. The sessions-house of Trim was built on a part of its site.

The Dominican Friary, situated near the gate leading to Ash-boy, was founded by Sir Geoffrey de Geneville, Lord of Meath, in the year 1269, who retiring hither became a friar, in 1309, and here died in 1314. This convent obtained great celebrity and distinction. Several parliaments, and general chapters of the order, were held in this religious house. It is noticed by Pembroke that the church of the Dominicans was consumed by fire, in the year 1368.

The Priory, or Hospital, of Crossbourers in this town, is thought to have been founded by one of the bishops of Meath, and it is certain that many prelates of that see were eminent benefac-

ters to this institution. The buildings are said to have been of a very magnificent character, but no vestiges of superior splendour are to be ascertained in the few existing remains. It has been conjectured that several of the parliaments assembled at Trim, were held in the great hall of this priory.

In regard to ecclesiastical arrangement, Trim forms part of an union, of which the other portions are Newtown; Tabberville; Scurlogstown; Kilcooly; and Tullyghanogue. The Church is a respectable structure, lately re-edified. In this church, or in that of Navan, the bishops of Meath are usually cathrope. The town has lately acquired an ornamental addition, of some interest, in the erection of a *tréphy*, or monument, commemorative of the exploits of Arthur, Duke of Wellington. This tribute to the far-spread military fame of an heroic native of the county of Meath, consists of a Corinthian column, surmounted by a statue of the duke. Here are barracks; a sessions-house; and a strong and capacious gaol. In the neighbourhood is a Charter-school, for 60 girls, endowed by the Earl of Mornington. The internal government of the town is vested in a portrieve and town-clerk.

On the banks of the Boyne, at the distance of about half a mile from Trim, is Newtown, where are considerable remains of monastic foundations. A *Priory of regular Canons*, of the congregation of St. Victor, was founded here, about the year 1206, by Simon Rochfort, the first Englishman who sat as bishop of Meath. This prelate erected the church of Newtown abbey into a cathedral for his diocese, and forsook Clonard, the cathedral-church of his predecessors. In this church he held a *synod* in 1216, the constitutions and canons of which are still extant. At his decease, in 1224, Bishop Rochfort was interred here. The prior of this house was a lord of parliament. Laurence White, the last prior, surrendered the priory, which was richly endowed, in the thirty-first of Henry VIII. On the opposite banks of the river was a *Priory, or Hospital*, dedicated to *St. John the Baptist*. This institution was designed for Cross-bearers, or Crouched friars; and was founded in the thirteenth century, probably by one of the bishops of Meath.

The remains of these monastic houses are extensive, and include parts of the former cathedral, which appears to have been a spacious and massy, but not highly-ornamented, structure. Among several monuments at this place is that of *Sir Lucas Dillon, of Newtown* and of *Moymet*, in this county; and his first lady. Sir Lucas was one of the ablest Irish lawyers of Elizabeth's reign, and long bore the office of chief baron of the exchequer. He was son and heir of Sir Robert Dillon, attorney-general to King Henry VIII. to whom the Priory of Newtown and its possessions were granted by that sovereign.

TRIMLESWON, a seat of Lord Trimleston, is distant from Trim two miles, towards the north-west. This is a spacious mansion, with ornamental towers, an embattled parapet; and other marks of the style which prevailed in the latter part of the sixteenth century. Adjoining the house is a small chapel, which forms the cemetery of the noble family to whom this estate belongs. The demesne is so truly beautiful, that the neglect which prevails is viewed by the examiner with equal surprise and regret.

At the distance of two miles and a half from Trim, towards the south-east, are the ruins of the castle and church of *SORLAGG's-town*. These were erected by William de Scurlog, about the year 1180, on lands granted to him by Hugh de Lacy. The castle exhibits the remains of a square keep, of spacious proportions, with circular towers at the angles. The apertures for the admission of light are few; and the whole fabric wears a chill and repulsive air, indicative of military harshness without any of the trappings of chivalry, or decorations of baronial sway. Mere fragments of walls denote the former existence of a church. In these, however, two rude circular arches are still remaining. This church was granted by its founder to the abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin, and was confirmed to that religious house, by Walter de Lacy, in the year 1200, under the name of the *church of William Scorigge's town*.

LARACOR, distant from Trim nearly two miles towards the

noth, will be viewed with interest as the former benefice, and the principal residence for several years, of the celebrated Dean of St. Patrick's. To the vicarages of Laracor and Rathbeggan, and the rectory of Agher, at that time united, Dr. Jonathan Swift was instituted on the 22nd of March, 1699, and retired hither when the Earl of Berkeley, lord lieutenant, to whom he had been chaplain and private secretary, left Ireland.* It is recorded, to his honour, that, at this place, he "continued to exercise his clerical duties with more regularity than had been usually practised by his predecessors; he read prayers three times a week, and preached regularly on Sundays."† The church, by this means, adds Mr. Mouché Masson, from whom the above passage is quoted, "became well attended by the neighbouring families." Swift is known to have had a great partiality for gardening and rural improvements. He now derived a rational amusement from improving his glebe. He formed a pleasant garden, and dug a canal, which he planted with willows. To these improvements, and the grati-

* In the work termed "*Swiftiana*" is a ludicrous, but fictitious, description of Swift's journey to take possession of his vicarage of Laracor. According to the author of that work, Swift performed the journey on foot, and in the following dress: "a decent suit of black clothes, with strong worsted stockings, of which he carried a second pair, and a shirt, in his pocket; a large grey surtout; a round slouched hat; with a pole, considerably longer than himself, which he had probably procured from some country hay-maker." In opposition to this fanciful description, it has been truly observed that Swift, when in places at which he was known, was so attentive to exterior appearances "that he never went abroad without his gown." He was, also, at this time chaplain to the chief governor of Ireland, and may, consequently, be supposed to have paid more than usual attention to a becoming decorousness of externals.

† The performance of divine service on week-days, was, at that time, unusual in Ireland, and Swift's congregation was, at first, far from being numerous. It has been said that on one occasion, finding that no person was present but himself and his clerk, he began with the words, "Dearly beloved Roger! the Scripture moveth you and me in sundry places," and proceeded in that manner throughout the service. But this anecdote rests entirely on the authority of Lord Orrery, whose assertions respecting Swift, should, in many instances, be regarded with suspicion.

situation he found in retirement, he frequently alludes in his journal and other writings.

It was during his residence on this vicarage, that he invited to Ireland Esther Johnson, whose peculiar fortunes were so intimately blended with all the private events of his future life. Mrs. Johnson was accompanied by her chosen friend, Mrs. Dingley, a lady about fifteen years older than herself, who remained with her until the time of her decease. "Every possible precaution," observes the writer last cited, "was taken to prevent scandal. The dean and the ladies never lived in the same house; when Swift was absent they resided at the parsonage; when he returned they removed to the house of Dr. Raymond, vicar of Trim, a gentleman of great virtue and learning, and Swift's intimate friend; or to Mr. Beaumont's, in that town; neither were they ever known to meet, but in the presence of a third person. Mrs. Johnson was, at this time, about the age of nineteen."

Laracor constituted the chief residence of Swift until the spring of the year 1710, and his various improvements here are noticed in the works mentioned in the margin.* A new glebe-house at Laracor was completed in the year 1813, with the aid of 200*l.* given, and 550*l.* lent, by the Board of First Fruits.

The attention is so powerfully excited, while we are investigating this neighbourhood, to the far-famed and mysterious intercourse between Dean Swift and the accomplished lady whom he poetically denominated Stella, that we indulge in some few remarks on that subject;—a tribute of reminiscences to the spot on which the intercourse may be said to have commenced, or, at least, where it first assumed a character obnoxious to public scrutiny.

* Journal to Stella, Nichols' edit. p. 4, et seq. and Swift's Works, by Scott, vol. xvi. p. 299. Among Swift's minor poems are some humorous lines, entitled "A true and faithful Inventory of the Goods belonging to Dr. Swift, vicar of Laracor, upon lending his house to the bishop of Ely, till his palace was rebuilt;" beginning thus:

An oaken broken elbow-chair;
A candle-cup without an ear;
A batter'd & shatter'd ash bedstead;
A box of deal, without a Hd, &c.

The person of Stella has been thus noticed by the pen of Swift. "She was looked upon as one of the most beautiful, graceful, and agreeable young women in London, only a little too fat." Respecting her mental qualifications, it may not be unpleasing to retrace, in this page, some few passages from an estimate of her character, begun by the same writer *on the day of her decease*. "Never was any of her sex born with better gifts of the mind, or who more improved them by reading and conversation. I cannot call to mind that I ever once heard her make a wrong judgment of persons, books, or affairs. All of us who had the happiness of her friendship agreed, unanimously, that in an afternoon or evening's conversation she never failed, before we parted, of delivering the best thing that was said in the company. With all the softness of temper that became a lady, she had the personal courage of a hero." In confirmation of this remark, Swift records an adventure in which she resisted the attempt of housebreakers, and discharged the contents of a pistol into the body of one of the assailants.

He proceeds to observe that "she was but little versed in the common topics of female chat," and had not, indeed, much company of her own sex, but "rather chose men for her companions; the usual topics of ladies' discourse being such as she had little knowledge of, and less relish. She was a prudent economist, yet with a stronger bent to the liberal side, wherein she gratified herself by avoiding all expense in clothes (which she ever despised) beyond what was merely decent. Her charity to the poor was a duty not to be diminished, and, therefore, became a tax upon those tradesmen who furnish the fopperies of other ladies. She spoke in a most agreeable voice, in the plainest words, never hesitating, except out of modesty before new faces, where she was somewhat reserved; nor among her nearest friends ever spoke much at a time. From her own disposition, at least as much as from the frequent want of health, she seldom made any visits; but her lodgings, from before twenty years old, were frequented by many persons of the graver sort, who all respected her highly, upon her good sense, good manners, and conversation. Among these were

the late primate Lindsay; Bishop Lloyd; Bishop Ashe; Bishop Brown; Bishop Sterne; Bishop Palleya; with some others of later date; and, indeed, the greatest number of her acquaintances was among the clergy."

From the arguments produced in a recent work, cited in several previous pages (*Hibernia Antiqua*, &c. by Mr. Moncke Mason) it would appear that the public has been subject to error, in supposing that a private and unconsummated marriage had taken place between Swift and Mrs. Johnson. In that work the first direct assertion of such a marriage is traced to Lord Orrery, and to the tongue of rumour;—authorities which the judicious will, perhaps, hold in almost equal disregard. It would be vain to seek for the cause of so long and particular a friendship having existence, without the usual consequence of an entire union between the parties; and it would be necessary, before we entered on such an examination, to ascertain that a love for her person was really entertained by the friend who derived so much pleasure from her conversation.

The connexion between these eminent persons afforded so fertile a ground for scandal, and is still a theme so agreeably irritating to the very prevalent love of mystery, that many more pages have been written upon the painful subject than its real character, and degree of importance, would appear to demand. *Painful* we may with justice term this exhausted topic, for the most zealous advocates of Swift can scarcely exonerate his character from the stigma of a deep and bitter reproach, arising from the grave of the ill-fated Stella. We have seen that, at the youthful age of nineteen, she was invited by Swift to remove to the vicinity of his residence. That the situation was liable to the charge of impropriety, himself proved, by the constant endeavours used to "prevent scandal;" and yet, in this suspicious intercourse he persevered, until the death of his fair and excellent victim relieved him from dread, but without allowing him to indulge in a public denotation of regret.*

* It is worthy of remark that the inscription placed over the remains of Stella, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, was evidently not composed by Swift;

That Swift might not entertain the most distant idea of marrying Stella, and never, in words, encouraged her to anticipate such an event, may be quite probable. But, until it be proved that the ordinary laws of nature, and the opinions proceeding from custom, failed to operate in the bosom and reflections of this lady, it cannot be admitted as possible that she did not expect such a result of his continued attentions. What fair argument can prove that he was justified in appropriating to himself, by an avowed and particular friendship, cultivated sedulously from youth to the decline of life, the sentiments of a woman whom he did not intend to make his wife? And what can be plainer than the line of duty prescribed to him by sound morals and a correct understanding? Unless in reply to some late endeavours to free his memory from all imputation of blame on this occasion, it would be superfluous to observe that he should either have forborne the withering cruelty of his attentions, or have ratified the connexion by those bands, to which, in the esteem of all but himself, his persevering intercourse appeared the natural prelude.

SUMMERHILL, the seat of Clotworthy Rowley, *Baron Langford, of Summerhill*, is distant from Dublin about twenty miles. This estate was possessed, in the early part of the seventeenth century, by the baronet family of Langford, from whom it passed by a marriage, in the person of Mary, eldest daughter and heir of Sir Hercules Langford, in the year 1683, to the family of Rowley, ennobled in 1765. The titles of Viscount Langford and Baron Summerhill became extinct, on the decease of Hercules, the first viscount, whose mother had been advanced to the peerage as Viscountess Langford, and Baroness Summerhill, with limitation of those honours to her heirs male, by her husband, the Right Hon. Hercules Langford Rowley. This, and the other estates of the family of Rowley, descended, on the above event, to Frances Rowley, niece of the deceased nobleman, who married her first

a circumstance the more forcibly entitled to notice, as he was engaged, for several years following her decease, in the reparation of monuments in his cathedral.

cousin, Clotworthy, third son of Thomas, Earl of Bective, who has assumed the name and arms of Rowley, and was created Baron Langford, of Summerhill, in the year 1800. The mansion on this demesne is built of stone, and is a commodious but unornamented pile. The grounds are extremely fine, and are adorned with much full-grown timber.

Contiguous to Summer-hill is DANGAN, memorable as the place at which was born Arthur, Duke of Wellington, on the 1st of May, 1769. This is an extensive and well-wooded demesne, but now deserted as a seat of noble residence. The manorial estate of Dangan, together with that of Mornington, and others of great value, first came into the possession of the Wellesley family in the fourteenth century, in consequence of the marriage of William Wellesley, a distinguished military officer in the reign of Richard II. with the heiress of the former proprietor. This family long flourished at Dangan, and maintained the antient seat in much hospitable splendour.

Garret, or Gerald, *Wesley*, or Wellesley, who died in 1728, devised this, and other parts of his real estate, to his cousin, Richard Colley, Esq. and his heirs male, on condition of their assuming the arms and name of Wellesley. This latter gentleman represented the borough of Trim in the Irish parliament, and was created Baron of Mornington in 1746. Garret-Colley Wellesley, his lordship's son and heir, was advanced, in 1760, to the dignities of Viscount Wellesley, of *Dangan Castle*, and Earl of Mornington, in the county of Meath. Among the other issue of this nobleman are conspicuous *Richard, Marquess Wellesley*, and *Arthur, Duke of Wellington*.

Dangan Castle and demesne were sold by the Marquess Wellesley to — Burroughs, Esq. who much improved the building by wings, containing an elegant chapel and library. The castle, which presented some remains of an antient embattled pile, combined with large additions, was destroyed by fire some few years back, and only a melancholy shell of the building now remains.

At the distance of two miles from Summer-hill, and most agreeably situated in an elevated tract of country, the surface of which is varied, and in some places rendered picturesque, by gentle undulations, is AGHER-HOUSE, the handsome seat of John Pratt Winter, Esq. The excellence of this mansion, and the beauty of its demesne, are contemplated by the examiner with unalloyed admiration, when he beholds the numerous peasantry, on the surrounding estate, living in eligible dwellings, and with decency and comfort, under the judicious protection of its esteemed and exemplary proprietor.*

CLONARD, in antient writings *Cluanaraird*, and *Cluainioraid*, a small and decayed town upon the river Boyne, was of great celebrity in past ages, on account of its ecclesiastical and learned institutions. This place was constituted a bishop's see by St. Finian, about the year 520. We have already observed that Simon Rochfort, the first English bishop of Meath, was the last prelate who sat at Clonard. St. Finian also founded at this place an Abbey, in which he established a school, which became one of the most celebrated academies of Ireland at a time when this island

* We cannot too strongly recommend to public notice the correctness of judgment displayed on the Agher estate, in the benevolent measures adopted for improving the condition of the labouring tenantry. Mr. Winter is author of a sensible and well-written letter, published in the Appendix to Thompson's Survey of Meath, in which is the following passage, illustrative of the just opinions by which he has been guided in forming plans for the cottages of his dependant peasantry: "It is easy for a gentleman, regardless of expense, to lodge a poor working man with whatever magnificence he may fancy; he thus, possibly, bestows comfort on a few persons, at a very needless cost, and gratifies his own taste—but this is all. The man who proposes only plain neatness, convenience, and economy, does more; he sets a useful example, which his neighbours may be induced to follow." The sentiment thus inculcated is peculiarly applicable to Ireland, where, even when a wish to amend the manners of the poor is evinced, it is by no means unusual to see, as ornaments to the vicinage of a favourite demesne, beautiful and romantic, but expensive, cottages, acting as improvements on the ordinary dwellings of the wretched peasantry, which can never be imitated except by the affluent.

was famed throughout neighbouring countries, for the success with which letters were cultivated in the sanctity of its cloisters. When we reflect on the piety and urbanity of the schoolmen of Ireland, in the sixth and seventh centuries, and recollect, on the testimony of Bede, if foreign evidence be wanting, that they received, with benevolent hospitality, aspirants after learning from other countries, including Britain, we must needs look back with veneration, and must also regard with a sigh of pity the present humility of this fallen town!

The Abbey founded by St. Finian was often destroyed by fire, the first recorded calamity of that description occurring A.D. 746. In the ninth century it was repeatedly plundered, and twice destroyed, by the Danes. From these frequent instances of demolition by casualty of fire, or the ravages of predatory bands, we learn that the buildings, however extensive, were composed of fragile materials; and the same calamities occurred in several succeeding ages. About the year 1175, the abbey was refounded by Walter de Lacy, for canons regular following the rule of St. Augustin. Its possessions were ample, and were chiefly granted, by Queen Elizabeth and Edward VI. to the families of Cusack and Slane. In the year 1610, the monastic buildings, with lands in this county, were granted to Sir Thomas Loftus, fourth son of the archbishop of that name, to hold by the twentieth part of a knight's fee; which estates were confirmed to his son, in 1639, in virtue of the commission for the remedy of defective titles.

The remains of the buildings erected after the refoundation of the abbey, were, until a recent date, of some extent, and of considerable interest; but we regret to state, that, with indifference almost amounting to barbarous apathy, they have lately been entirely destroyed, with the exception of the antient and richly-sculptured font, which is removed to the modern church of Clonard, a fabric completed in the year 1810.*

* We believe that the only memorial extant, respecting the state of the ruins of Clonard in the latter half of the eighteenth century, is that contained in the Monasticon. It may not be undesirable to reprint, in the present work, the account there drawn up by Mr. Archdall. "The entrance into this abbey

A *Nunnery*, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, was also founded here, by O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, before the entry of the English. This nunnery was reformed to the rule of St. Augustin, by Pope Celestine III.; but afterwards sank into poverty, and became a cell to the nunnery of St. Brigid of Odra, or Odder.

At BALLYBOGAN, two and a half miles from Clonard, towards the south-west, a *Priory* was founded, in the twelfth century, by Jordan Comin, for canons of the order of St. Augustin. Thomas Bermingham, the last prior, surrendered the priory and its possessions in the nineteenth of Henry VIII. In the succeeding year was publicly burnt a crucifix, belonging to this priory, which had been held in great veneration. Remains of the buildings are still to be seen, on the banks of the river Boyne.

ARNOY, a small market and fair town, is distant from Dublin twenty-nine miles, towards the north-west. A Friary, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel, was either first established or refounded here, in the year 1317. Chapters of the order were

the west side, was through a small building, with a lodge over it, which led on into a small court. To the right of this court stand the kitchen and cellar, and over them the dormitory, ranging with the river, and overlooking the garden which sloped from thence to the water's edge. Opposite the entrance was another small apartment, and adjoining it the refectory, which was carried for some length beyond the square, and joined the choir, a large and elegant building, most part of which still remains, and the windows are finished in a light Gothic style. On the south side of the altar, fixed in the wall, is a small double arch, in the old Saxon manner, and divided by a pillar, through which iron bars were fixed. This is supposed to have been the founder's tomb. There are many remains of walls, adjoining the other parts of the abbey, but in so ruinous a state, that little information can be gleaned from them. At a little distance from the east window, in the burial ground, stands a small chapel, in which is a table monument, ornamented with the effigies of a man and a woman, in a praying posture, and dressed in the ruff of Queen Elizabeth's time. The sides are adorned with many coats of arms; that of the family of Dillon is most conspicuous."—*Monast. Hib.* pp. 525-6.

held at this friary in the years 1325, and 1407. Its dissolution took place in the thirty-first of Henry VIII. Thomas Bligh, Esq. ancestor of Earl Darnley, had, in 1681, a grant of four yearly fairs at this town. He also obtained permission from King William, in the year 1694, to erect into a manor, termed the manor of Athboy, his estates in the parishes of Athboy, Rathmore, Moyagher, and Kildalkey, with power to hold courts, and many other privileges. This is a town of little trade. Its annual fairs are chiefly for the sale of cattle, but are not largely attended.

RATHMORE, the estate on which the Bligh family, ennobled by the title of Earl Darnley, has been seated since the middle of the seventeenth century, is distant from Athboy about one mile, towards the north-west. John Bligh, Esq. the first of this family who settled in Ireland, was a citizen and dry-salter, of London, who came to this country in the time of Cromwell's government, as an agent to the adventurers for the estates forfeited in the rebellion of 1641. He speedily became an adventurer himself, subscribing the sum of 600*l.* to a joint stock in which two other speculators were concerned; and on *casting lots*, among other adventurers, the allotment for himself and his associates fell in the baronies of Lune and "Moghergallen," in this county, on property which had chiefly belonged to the Gormanston family. He seated himself at Rathmore, a part of the estate thus easily acquired, and shortly augmented his purchases.

In the first parliament after the restoration, Mr. Bligh was returned member for Athboy, which town sent two representatives to the House of Commons, previous to the Union. He was afterwards joined in several lucrative commissions under government. Thomas, his only son, who erected into a manor the principal estates of the family in this neighbourhood, was also empowered, by grant from King William, to hold 500 acres in demesne, and to impale 800 acres for deer. John, grandson to the founder of this family, was created Baron Clifton, *of Rathmore*, 1721; Viscount Darnley, *of Athboy*, 1723; and Earl Darnley, 1725.

NAVAN, a populous, busy, and improving town, is finely situ-

ated in the central part of the county, on the banks of the Boyne, which river here unites with the Blackwater. This was a place of considerable importance during many ages subsequent to the entry of the Anglo-Normans, and is said to have been one of the towns walled and rendered defensible in the time of Hugh de Lacy. If this be not entirely erroneous, it is certain that a fresh erection of mural outlines was found to be necessary in the sixteenth century. By an act of the thirty-fourth of Henry VIII. it is directed that "every ploughed land within the county of Methe and West Methe, used to be charged with subsidie, and not free from imposition, shall be, during the term of four years, charged with the sum of three shillings and four-pence towards building the walls of the town of Navan."*

In the sub-partition of Meath, Navan, with attached palatinate privileges, fell to the Nangle family, who took the title of baron from this estate. By that family was founded here, towards the termination of the twelfth century, an Abbey for regular canons, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary. Richard Nangle, or D'Angulo, abbot in 1488, was concerned, together with most of the ecclesiastics of this part of Ireland, in the rebellious attempt to place Lambert Simnel on the throne; for which offence against the state he received a pardon from Henry VII. The abbey was surrendered to the crown in the thirty-first of Henry VIII. and horse barracks have been since built on its site.

The Church of Navan is a commodious building, lately re-edified, with the aid of 600*l.* given, and 1100*l.* lent, by the Board of First Fruits. The new structure was completed in 1817. Dr. Beaufort, author of a "Memoir of a Map of Ireland," was for many years rector of the Union in which Navan is situated, but did not reside here. A school for gratuitous education was founded and endowed by Alderman John Preston, in 1686.

This town has received very important advantages from a canal, communicating with the great corn port of Drogheda. The weekly market for the sale of corn is largely attended, and the

* Lambeth MSS. as cited in the Appendix to Thompson's Survey of Meath.

inhabitants are actively engaged in various branches of the provision trade. Much sackings is also manufactured in the town and neighbourhood. The benefits arising from the successful spirit of commercial enterprise, are apparent in the rapid increase of eligible buildings, and the great rise in the value of local property.

ATHLUNNY CASTLE, on the borders of the river, in the vicinity of the above town, exhibits the extensive ruins of a spacious mansion, in the style which prevailed in the seventeenth century, united with the harsher vestiges of a fortified building.

DUNMOW CASTLE, situated on the north-east of Navan, was originally built by De Lacy. The fabric at present consists of an oblong pile, flanked with circular towers, in the manner of the ancient Norman keep. This castle was fortified in the seventeenth century, and was defended for the royal party by Captain Power, in the year 1641, until he was induced by a stratagem to surrender. The building was afterwards repaired, when the second King James was in Ireland.

At **DONSOGHMORE** is a round or pillar tower, remarkable for having, on the key-stone over the entrance, a carved representation of the Saviour on the cross. Contiguous are the ruins of an ancient church. It is said that St. Patrick founded an abbey here, over which he placed St. Justin.

BELLINTER, the seat of Lord Tara, is distant three miles from Navan, and is agreeably situated on the southern banks of the river Boyne. The mansion was erected by the grandfather of the present nobleman, after the designs, as we believe, of Mr. Cassels, memorable for introducing to Ireland the Palladian style of architecture. The plan comprehends a central structure, containing the principal apartments, with wings, having the appearance of square distinct houses, communicating with the main building by colonnades, now occupied as conservatories. Considerable internal improvements have lately been carried into execution,

under the tasteful direction of Lady Tara. The attached grounds are disposed with much judgment, and are greatly enriched by fine and diversified views of the river Boyne, the fertile country on its borders, and mountainous tracts in the distance.

On the northern banks of the river Boyne, in the vicinity of the above seat, is ARDSALLAGH, or Ardsalla, the estate of Earl Ludlow. A monastery was founded here, early in the sixth century, by St. Finian of Clonard, but no particulars have been preserved concerning the history of that foundation. Ardsallagh, which had constituted part of the large possessions of the Nangles, barons of Navan, passed into the family of Preston, by the marriage of Hugh, son of Martin Preston, Esq. third son of Jenico, third Viscount Gormanston, with a daughter of Jocelyn Nangle, baron of Navan, in an early year of the seventeenth century. Mary, daughter and heir to John Preston, Esq. descended from the above Hugh, married Peter Ludlow, Esq. who represented the county of Meath in parliament, in 1719, and 1727. By this marriage the estate passed to the noble family in whose possession it still remains. Peter Ludlow, son of the last-named gentleman, by his wife Mary Preston, succeeded to the maternal estate, and was created Baron Ludlow, *of Ardsallagh*, in 1755; and Viscount Preston, *of Ardsallagh*, and Earl Ludlow, in 1760. The family seat and demesne at this place, unite with those of Bellinter in greatly ornamenting the banks of the Boyne.

The ruins of BECTIVE ABBEY, distant three miles from the town of Trim, and four miles from Navan, afford an interesting and picturesque antiquarian ornament to the banks of the same river. This religious house was founded for Cistercian monks, and placed under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, by Murchard O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, about the year 1146; and was called the *Abbey de Beatiuudine*. The foundation was richly endowed, and the abbot, who was a lord of parliament, appears to have lived in considerable splendour. The demesne land, at the time of the dissolution, in the 34th of Henry VIII. consisted of 245 acres.

The most memorable transaction recorded, in such scanty annals of this abbey as have descended to the present day, relates to a dispute concerning the interment of Hugh de Lacy, the first Lord Palatine of Meath. The body of that nobleman was buried at this place, with much solemnity, A. D. 1195; but his head was placed in the abbey of St. Thomas, in Dublin. That abbey was founded by an Anglo-Norman chief (William Fitz Andelm) and de Lacy had himself largely contributed to its possessions. The monks of St. Thomas claimed the whole of their benefactor's remains, and a long controversy ensued between the rival abbots. A reference was made to Pope Innocent III.; and, eventually, the bishop of Meath, the archdeacon of that diocese, and the prior of Duleek, who were appointed by the pope to decide between the contending parties, gave sentence in favour of the abbey of St. Thomas. The value of this award was not entirely chimerical, when we remember the accession of repute obtained by monastic churches, in consequence of the interment of distinguished personages within their walls.

On the surrender of this abbey, the fabric consisted of "a church, hall, and cloister, with certain chambers and other buildings"; and none of these, except the domestic parts, and light extraneous buildings, have entirely disappeared. The dilapidated vestiges of this structure present, indeed, very curious traces of the whole former arrangement and œconomy of the most important parts of a monastic edifice. The tower of entrance is of ample proportions, and imparts, in some degree, a castellated aspect to the ruins. The hall was also spacious; and the cloister, which is partly in good preservation, exhibits a range of pointed arches, divided by piers lightened and adorned with clustered pillars. Among the remaining particulars of decoration, is a sculpture of the Virgin and child, placed on a pedestal, beneath a coronal canopy, and inserted in one of the piers.

ARDBRACCAN, distant rather more than two miles from the town of Navan, towards the west, was one of the antient bishoprics which now form the diocese of Meath. At this place St.

Braccan founded an abbey, in the year 650, of which he became the first abbot, as, also, the first bishop of the church erected by himself. The abbey was often plundered and burned, by the Danes and domestic enemies; and little has been recovered concerning its history since 1170, in which year a part of the buildings fell to the ground.

Ardbraccan has constituted, from a very early period, the principal residence of the bishops of Meath. In a scarce pamphlet, which details many transactions of the civil war in 1641 and the following year, this episcopal residence is described as a "strong castle." It was captured in that war by the party opposed to government, and remained for some time in their possession.

This structure has been entirely rebuilt since the year 1766, by bishops Maxwell and O'Beirne, from the designs of the late James Wyatt, Esq. A considerable part of the re-edification took place at the expense of the last named prelate, and was performed under the superintendence of the late Dr. Beaufort. The house is in the Palladian style, but in a modification adapted to the climate and manners of this country. The design consists of the main building and two wings, connected by circular walls and niches. In general character, the building combines the splendour of the palatial edifice with the comfort of an English mansion. The whole is composed of limestone from an adjacent quarry, which is peculiarly applicable to the purposes of embellished architecture, as, unlike much of the building-stone of Ireland, it does not absorb water, nor contract a green hue from nurturing the growth of lichens. The interior of the palace is a fine example of the elegant taste and correct judgment, often displayed by the late Mr. Wyatt, equally in the state and family arrangements of a dignified mansion.

The attached pleasure-grounds are extensive, and are enriched with ornamental plantations, chiefly made, in a style of disposal highly creditable to the taste of that prelate, by Bishop O'Beirne. Among the various beautiful trees and shrubs in these grounds, will, however, be noticed some cedars of Libanus, and other exotics, planted by Bishop Pococke, whilst that learned traveller

resided for a short time at Ardbraccan, and presided over the diocese of Meath.

The parochial church of Ardbraccan was rebuilt under the auspices of Bishop Maxwell, between the years 1766, and 1799, but in a homely mode of design, the hints of which would appear to have been taken from domestic rather than ecclesiastical architecture. The interior is enriched with the episcopal appendage of a throne. The ceremony of enthronization is, however, usually performed at Trim or Navan. Detached from the present structure is an antient tower, which constituted a part of the church formerly on this site.

Two monuments in the burial yard demand attentive notice. The tomb of *George Montgomery, bishop of Meath and Clogher*, who died in 1630, presents figures, rudely executed, of the bishop, his wife and daughter. For an account of several peculiarities in the remaining embellishments of this monument, we profit by some remarks afforded in Mr. Shaw Mason's Parochial Survey. "Over the figures is a Latin inscription, purporting that the monument having suffered from the devastations of time, or rather of sacrilegious hands, was repaired in the year 1750. The original inscription, which is on the east side, written as on the two opposite pages of a book, is to the following effect:—*Deo et Episcopo Midensi posuit Georgius Montgomerius Scoto-Britannus divina providentia Episcopus midensis et Clogherensis, ætatis sue 51.*

"On this side is a bust, with three plumes, surmounted by a mitre; and over the mitre is a cup, with a figure of the sacramental bread, or wafer, used in the church of Rome. Underneath the bust are two swords laid across, interspersed with *fleurs-de-lis*. On the west side is an angel sounding a trumpet, and a shield with armorial bearings; and the motto *non nobis auri*; underneath these is the legend "*repose,*" S.M. (Sarah Montgomery, the bishop's wife.) The shield is, on this side also, surmounted by a cup, and the figure of the sacramental bread."

From the representation of the wafer used in the church of Rome (a device obviously inappropriate to the monument of a

protestant bishop) it is conjectured by the writer to whom we are indebted for the above particulars, " that the repairing of the monument fell into the hands of unskilful persons, and that some part of the monuments of bishops, who lived before the reformation," was then added to its embellishments.

To the south of the above monument is a small slab, the humble and ill-executed memorial of *Dr. Richard Pecoche, bishop of Ossory and of Meath*, whose name, and many claims on the regard of posterity, are noticed in our account of the cathedral of St. Canice.

There are at Ardbracon a Charter-school, capable of accommodating sixty boys, and a parish-school for gratuitous education, conducted under the benevolent auspices of the Bishop of Meath. In the neighbourhood are several schools of the same description, founded and supported by resident individuals.—As a distinguished native must be noticed *Dr. John Stearns*, Fellow of T. C. D. who was born in the year 1732, at the house of his uncle, *Dr. James Usher*, then bishop of Meath. *Dr. Stearns* was author of several works on divinity, which obtained considerable attention in the seventeenth century.

KELLS, a small town, distant from Dublin 31½ miles, towards the north-west, is pleasantly situated on the river Blackwater. Although the domestic buildings possess little regularity, an air of neatness prevails in the principal part of the town, and the church-spire and neighbouring pillar-tower, shooting above the mass of habitations, impart a dignity and interest to the approach, not always possessed by places of greater real importance. However deficient in commercial consequence, Kells was once of great ecclesiastical celebrity, and was of so much value, in a military point of view, that it was formerly deemed the *key of Meath*.

This town is first recognised in history as the site of a monastery, founded about the year 550, by *St. Columb*. That religious house progressively attained very distinguished celebrity, and Kells was constituted the see of a bishop, which advantage it enjoyed until the thirteenth century, when the bishopric was united

to that of Meath. The abbey and town were frequently plundered, and otherwise much injured, by the Danes; and were several times destroyed by accidental fire, previous to the expiration of the twelfth century. In the year 1152, a memorable synod was held here by John Paparo, Cardinal of St. Laurence, legate of the pope.

The entry of the Anglo-Normans effected a considerable change in the fortunes of this town. Hugh de Lacy, Lord of Meath, aware of its local importance, strongly fortified his town of Kells, the "key" of his new dominions; and erected here a castle, which is said to have occupied the site of the present market-place. He also made a considerable grant of lands to the abbey, which, thus enriched and protected, shone forth with new splendour. This grant was confirmed, with additional benefactions, by John Earl of Mortain, Lord of Ireland, afterwards King John. In the year 1315, as is asserted by several historians, Edward Bruce obtained near Kells a victory over the forces of Roger Mortimer, afterwards Earl of March, and lord justice. On this occasion the Conqueror is said to have burned the town. We hear but little of Kells, as a military post, after the fourteenth century, and it had certainly ceased to be defensible before the civil wars in the time of Charles I.

The *abbey* of Kells was designed for regular canons, and was placed under the invocation of the Virgin Mary. The last abbot was Richard Plunket, who surrendered the abbey Nov. 19th, 1541. The greater part of the possessions was afterwards granted to Sir Gerald Plunket. Scarcely any traces of the buildings are now visible.

Here was also a *Priory*, or *Hospital*, under the invocation of St. John the Baptist, for *Crouched-friars*, founded by Walter de Lacy, in the reign of Richard I. This hospital was surrendered in the thirty-first of King Henry VIII. and its buildings and appurtenances were granted, in the eighth year of Queen Elizabeth, to Richard Slane, for the term of twenty-one years, at an annual rent of 14l. 10s. The buildings stood at the lower end of the street still termed St. John's street.

The *Church of Kells* is a plain structure, of no great antiquity, well fitted up and in good preservation. The most conspicuous monument is that of Sir Thomas Taylor, first baronet of his family, and ancestor of the Marquess of Headfort, who died August 8th, 1736; and Anne his wife, daughter of Sir Robert Cotton, of Combermere, County of Chester, Bart. who died August 22nd, 1710. The monument consists of a large sarcophagus of grey marble, which rests on three eagles' claws, and supports an urn upon an altar of white marble, between two Corinthian pillars. The rectory of Kells is united to the chapelries of Barry, Duleen, and Rathboyne, and with them forms the corps of the Archdeaconry of Meath.

On the north side of the church is an insulated tower, on one front of which are three busts, carved in stone, representing a prelate and two other dignitaries of the church. Beneath is an inscription, stating that the church of Kells, being in decay, was re-edified, A. D. 1572, by Hugh Brady, bishop of Meath. It may be observed that this conduct was particularly meritorious, as the see of Meath was so poor when Bishop Brady took possession of it, that a respite of five years was allowed to him for the payment of first fruits.

In the vicinity of the church, towards the south, and also *near the site of the abbey founded by St. Columb*, is a round or pillar-tower,* said by Mr. Archdall to measure ninety-nine feet from the

* It is a circumstance highly worthy of observation, that we uniformly meet with these towers as former adjuncts of such monasteries in Ireland, as are said to have been founded in the early centuries of the Christian era; to which ages we have, in the Introduction to this work, ventured to ascribe the erection of the Irish Pillar-towers. This very remarkable coincidence is noticed by the Chev. de Montmorency in the following words: "It is certain that we only meet these Pillar-towers coupled with our very oldest monasteries and abbeys; those that owe their foundation to the Declans, the Abhans, the Patricks, &c. and to their immediate contemporaries and disciples; subsequent to whom, since the latter end of the seventh century, no more Pillar-towers were built.—For instance, there is one, very high and beautiful, attached to the Abbey of Downpatrick, seated on the Lough of Strangford, in which St. Patrick, the founder, was

ground; but that measurement probably included the ancient conical capping, which has fallen since Mr. Archdall composed the *Monasticon*. Near the top are four apertures, facing the cardinal points. The entrance is on the north side. In this churchyard are the fragments of a cross, richly decorated with various ornaments.

In a street near the site of the former castle is a second stone cross, elaborately and beautifully carved with a great variety of figures and devices, many of which have scriptural allusions. We are told, by the author of the "*Survey of Meath*," that this fine cross "formerly lay prostrate," (having, probably, been thrown down at the time of the Reformation) "but was raised by the desire, and at the expense of, the celebrated Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's." Among the few vestiges of antiquity in this town, is, also, to be seen a small stone roofed cell or chapel, locally termed *Columb-Kill's house*.

The *Roman Catholic chapel* is a handsome building, erected after the designs of F. Johnston Esq.; and the *Sessions-house* was planned by the same architect. The town of Kells is internally governed by a sovereign and deputy, and gives the title of Viscount, in the Irish peerage, to the family of Cholmondeley, Marquess of Cholmondeley.

At the distance of about one mile from the above town is **HEADFORT**, the fine demesne of Thomas Tylour, Marquess of Headfort and Earl of Bective. The mansion is a spacious structure, consisting of a centre and wings, but is by no means conspicuous for architectural beauty.* The grounds are very extensive,

buried, in 495; another, as we have seen, at Ardmore, dedicated to St. Declan; two at Clonmacnois, and a third at Fermagh, to St. Kieran; one to St. Abban, at Emly; one at Kells, to St. Columb; one to St. Senan, in the island of Iniscatha; there was another at Ardfert, that has lately fallen, erected to St. Brendan, early in the sixth century; one at Roscrea, and another at Clondalkin, to St. Cronan; the Tower of Lusk, to St. Maccullind; of Swords, to St. Columb and St. Finan; of Damhinnis, to St. Molaine; of Glendalough, to St. Kevin, brother to St. Declan, &c." *Essay on the Origin of the Irish Pillar-tower, &c.* pp. 54, 55.

* We are informed by Mr. Johnston, that plans have been furnished

an area of more than 1,200 acres being enclosed within stone walls, twelve feet in height. The river here expands into a noble sheet of water, and the plantations, which, together with the other improvements at this place, were entirely made by the late Earl of Bective, are numerous, well-disposed, and thriving.

Thomas Taylour, Esq. ancestor of the noble proprietor of this demesne, came into Ireland with the celebrated Sir William Petty, whose associate he had been at school and college. He assisted Sir William in making the Down Survey; and, about the year 1660, purchased large estates in Meath, including the town and townlands of Kells. Sir Thomas Taylour, the third baronet of this family, was created Baron Headfort in 1760; Viscount Headfort in 1762; and Earl Bective, of Bective castle, in 1766. Thomas, second Earl of Bective, was further advanced in the Irish peerage, as Marquess of Headfort, on the 29th of December, 1800.

Stonebrooke, the residence of the Rev. the Archdeacon of Meath, situated at an agreeable distance from the above town, on the north side, is one of the principal ornaments of this neighbourhood. We are not aware that a finer spot for the erection of a villa is to be found in this part of the county, and the whole demesne is judiciously disposed, and preserved with great care.

At CASTLE KIERAN, distant from Kells four miles, on the north of the road leading to Oldcastle, are some remains of a small church, dedicated to St. Kieran, who flourished in the early part of the sixth century, and is said to have been educated in the neighbouring school of Clonard. In the cemetery attached to these ruins is a very fine stone cross, richly sculptured. Here is a holy spring, much resorted to by the peasantry on the first Sunday in August, who believe that it has the property of curing diseases by miraculous influence.

A curious discovery of the remains of some moose deer, once by that judicious architect for alterations and improvements of the mansion of Headfort, which we hope may soon be carried into effect.

numerous in Ireland, has recently occurred on the estate of Mr. Dyas, a few miles distant from the town of Kells. Some labourers employed in cutting turf, on an elevated part of an extensive bog belonging to that gentleman, found, at the depth of a few feet beneath the surface, the tops of a row of strong oaken poles, from six to eight inches in diameter, which proved, on sinking to the *earth* into which they were driven, to vary in length from ten to fifteen feet. It was, also, then found that they were placed at intervals, of about six inches apart. A considerable quantity of the bog adjoining these poles having been cleared away, it was ascertained that they formed a portion of an extensive enclosure, of a circular form. Within this enclosure, and in the immediate vicinity of the poles, were found very numerous fossil remains of the moose deer. A discovery of the vestiges of this animal, under such circumstances, we believe to be unique. It may, with every appearance of probability, be conjectured that the pole, or stakes, formed an enclosure used for entrapping the deer, who were driven into it by hunters. It will be recollected that the same method is still used, in capturing the elephant, by hunters in Africa.*

At KILMAINHAM-BEG (locally termed *Kil-beg*), distant from the town of Kells four miles, towards the N. E. a *Commandery for Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem* was founded, in the reign of Richard I., by Walter de Lacy, lord of Meath. A lease of this entire commandery was granted, in the year 1500, by the prior of Kilmainham, to Peter Barnwall, of Stackallan, Gent.; and, according to an inquisition made in 1588, it was found that the fabric was in a ruinous condition, "owing to the devastations committed by Sir Thomas Barnwall, Knt. Alexander his son, and Sir Thomas Cusack." Scarcely any traces of the buildings, which comprised a "castle, chapel, legate-house, and bawn, with a stone wall," are now to be seen.

* For the above particulars we are indebted to information conveyed by William Morrison, Esq.

MOYRATH CASTLE was originally built, according to the annals of Innisfallen, in the year 1219, by the Viceroy Lord Geoffrey Morres (Baron de Montemarisco). The manor and castle of Moyrath were purchased by William-Oge Nugent, second son of William, first Baron of Delvin, and from that time became the seat of a branch of the Nugent family, denominated after this place. The above-named William-Oge was knighted by Edmond Mortimer, Earl of March, and married, before the year 1382, Joan, daughter of Sir Thomas de Tuite, of the Sonnagh, in Westmeath, by whom he had, among other issue, Thomas Nugent, progenitor of the baronet family of Nugent of Moyrath.

NOBBLE, a small fair and post town, is celebrated as the birth-place of *Carolán*, the *last minstrel* of Ireland, whose compositions rival those of the antient bards of his country, in beauty, in melancholy, and in pathos, although the triumphs of war, or the melody of lamentation over the public sorrows of Erin, were not with him, as with his predecessors, the great inspiriting excitations of musical genius.

Turlough O'Carolan was born in 1670, and was the son of a farmer, in humble circumstances. He was deprived of his sight by the ravages of the small pox, at so early a period of life that he "remembered no impression of colours." He was accustomed to say, when speaking of this calamity, "that his eyes were transplanted into his ears;" and so apparent became, even during childhood, his acute sensibility to the concord of sweet sounds, that his friends procured him a professional instructor on the harp, before he had completed the twelfth year of his age. He was, however, a natural genius of the first rank, and was born to create rather than to practise. Although his harp was rarely unstrung, he, in general, as is observed by Mr. Walker, "only used it to assist him in composition; his fingers wandered amongst the strings, in quest of the sweets of melody." In proof of the correctness of such a statement, it must be noticed that, in his desultory travels, he was attended by a harper, who accompanied his voice, and supplied his want of skill in practical music.

A keen susceptibility to the charms of music is obviously favourable to an indulgence of the tender passions. At an early age Carolan became enamoured of a lady, by name Miss Bridget Cruise; and the song addressed by him to that fair object of his wishes, is supposed to be his *chef d'œuvre*. Miss Cruise, however, refused his hand; but the sympathy remaining true, although the object might change, he shortly found a solace in marriage with a young woman of a respectable family, named Mary Mac Guire, by whom he had seven children. He now fixed his residence on a small farm near Moshill, in the county of Leitrim; but the fate of genius followed him to his little habitation. He prosecuted his studies in music and poetry with great care, but quite neglected, in the ardour of such pursuits, and in the pleasures of an unbounded hospitality, a due attention to prudential concerns. He consequently soon abandoned a farm that was an incumbrance rather than a source of emolument, and commenced the life of an itinerant musician.

Although we must deplore, in our sympathy with him as a husband and a father, the irregularity of habits which led to wanderings so strange in modern times, this is, evidently, the part of Carolan's biography in which the general reader is most interested. Whilst reflecting upon the high character he has obtained as a musical composer, and the attractive light in which he appears as a successor, and representative, in an altered season, of the ancient bards, we are anxious to know the degree of personal consequence he assumed, and the reception he experienced.

We learn from the remarks of Mr. Walker, in the Appendix to that writer's "Memoirs of the Irish Bards," that "he travelled on a good horse, and was attended by a harper in the character of a domestic." By the same author we are told, that, in regard to pecuniary affairs, he was enabled to maintain a middle course, neither suffering poverty nor (as will be supposed) knowing, by experience, the meaning of the word affluence. If such be the fact, the degree of competence he enjoyed must have proceeded, so far as we are informed, from the assistance of those who admired his genius;—nor could his proper pride be hurt when

accepting favours delicately rendered, since such a condescension of talent to wealth he well knew to have been, through time immemorial, the custom of his bardic predecessors.

In this country every deserving man is sure of a hospitable reception; and it is truly grateful to have the opportunity of observing that, with one exception (an inordinate attachment to whiskey, *the wine of Ireland*), the moral worth of Carolan insured the respect of those, whose first inducement to admit him to a connexion proceeded from his reputation for talent. His want of temperance was excused in him, as a poet pleading the usage of antiquity; and it does not appear that his libations were habitually carried to a disgraceful excess. He banquetted with the lords of mansions, and was received, as a decorous and amusing companion, by their ladies and daughters. Such acts of hospitality he repaid by musical compositions in honour of his entertainers, destined to delight posterity, and to add to the fame of his country!

In these bardic ramblings were passed the prime and the decline of Carolan's life. His constitution was slowly, but perceptibly, sinking, before an indulgence in the use of spirituous liquors, when his feelings experienced an insurmountable shock, from the loss of his wife, who died in 1733. Sightless, old, and sick, he could not long combat with the world after such an event. He expired at Alderford, in the county of Roscommon, in the year 1738, and in the 68th year of his age.

A dissertation on the merits and defects of the musical compositions produced by this distinguished man, will not be expected in the present work. He is said to have "outstripped his predecessors in the three species of composition used among the Irish." We can truly assert, from experience, that his best pieces, when performed on the favourite instrument of his native island, go directly home to the heart, and lead the feelings willing and delighted captives. Carolan's is the music of nature, the music of the passions; and, as such, must last whilst just taste and a love of simplicity maintain their stations in the human breast. If ever neglected by the courtly, his airs will still be cherished on

the mountains of Ireland, and in the rustic seclusion of its vales; for nature responds when the harp vibrates to his conceptions.

His music has lately been made, in some degree, familiar to the English public, by a popular adaptation, and by the words of a modern favourite writer. The airs of Carolan were chiefly composed during his wanderings, and were principally designed as bardic compliments, and expressions of gratitude and esteem, to the persons by whom he was kindly received. We have already noticed the best of his amatory pieces. His "receipt for drinking whiskey" was composed on his recurring to the fatal indulgence of his libations, after an abstinence of six weeks. He also composed several pieces of church music. His inspiring genius presided over the chords of his harp alone: as a poet we are not aware that he has ever risen above mediocrity. He was little indebted to education. Of the classical languages he was entirely ignorant, nor had he acquired much knowledge of English until an advanced period of life.

At *Brittas*, near Nobber, is the handsome villa of Thomas Bligh, Esq. recently enlarged, and much improved, after the designs of Mr. Francis Johnston.

SLANE, which gives name to a barony in the north-east part of this county, is very finely situated on the river Boyne, at the distance of twenty-four miles from Dublin. The houses of which this village is composed are chiefly modern, and of an ornamental character. The neat and respectable aspect of the dwellings; the natural beauty of situation; and the highly-cultivated scenery displayed in several neighbouring demesnes, unite in rendering this village one of the most attractive spots in the eastern part of Ireland.

Slane, which had been a place of considerable note previous to the entry of the English, constituted, in years briefly subsequent to that event, a borough in Hugh de Lacy's palatinate. The manor and its dependencies were long possessed by the family of Fleming, whose ancestor entered Ireland with De Lacy, and who took from this place the title of Lord of Slane, fixing his resi-

dence at a castle in the vicinity of the town. These proprietors forfeited the estate in the unhappy year 1641, and it was soon afterwards acquired by its present possessors, the family of Conyngham, ennobled by the titles of Marquess Conyngham; Earl Conyngham; Earl of Mount Charles; *Viscount Slane* and Conyngham; and Baron Conyngham, in the Irish peerage; and Baron Minster, of Minster Abbey, in the peerage of England.

An *Abbey* was founded in Slane, at an early but unknown date, which existed, through many vicissitudes of fortune, until the general suppression of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. To this monastery was attached a school of some celebrity, which is said to have afforded appropriate education to a royal personage. It is traditionally asserted that Dagobert, King of Austrasia, when treacherously removed from his kingdom, in 653, at an infantile age, was received into the abbey of Slane, where he continued for nearly twenty years, at the expiration of which time he was recalled to his throne, and was found to be well qualified for the duties of government. This abbey was repeatedly destroyed by the Danes, in the ninth and tenth centuries, and was, likewise, exposed to injury from domestic assailants, in the year 1170, at which time Mac Morough, King of Leinster, with a body of the English, commanded by Earl Strongbow, burnt and sacked the town of Slane. The same ravages were again committed by the English, in 1175.

Under the protection of the baronial family of Fleming, this ancient abbey experienced a renovation of prosperity. By Sir Christopher Fleming, Lord of Slane, and Elizabeth Stuckle, his wife, it was refounded, in 1512, for friars of the third order of St. Francis. The buildings were then restored, on an extensive scale, and some fresh endowments made. After the dissolution, this friary was granted to James, Lord of Slane, at the annual rent of one penny, Irish money. The remains of the buildings include the tower of the chapel, and add an interesting feature to the picturesque charms of this neighbourhood.

A *Hermitage* was established here, in an early age, and named

after St. Eirc, who died in the year 514. Two ascetic friars were dwelling in this recess, when Christopher Lord Slane re-founded the abbey, and were by him removed to that renovated institution. Several of the family of Fleming, Lords of Slane, were buried in this hermitage. The ruins of the building are to the south of the village, on the margin of the river, and within the grounds of Slane Castle.

The Church of Slane is a neat and well-preserved building, having a handsome steeple, recently erected after the designs of Mr. Francis Johnston. The *Rev. Mervyn Archdall*, who was born at Dublin, on the 22nd of April, 1723, was for some time rector of Slane. To the name of this gentleman we often advert in the present work, as *author of the Monasticon Hibernicum*, and editor of an enlarged edition of Lodge's Peerage of Ireland. The taste of Mr. Archdall for inquiries concerning the Monastic and Genealogical History of Ireland, was encouraged, in the early part of his life, by Mr. Harris, the learned and judicious editor of Ware's works, and also by Smith, the historian of several Irish counties. In his more mature years he was favoured with the friendly patronage of the celebrated traveller, and excellent prelate, Dr. Richard Pecoche, bishop of Ossory and of Meath, to whom he was domestic chaplain.

This erudite bishop, as Mr. Archdall himself gratefully states, "pointed out the method adopted in the *Monasticon Hibernicum*; procured many necessary documents; and had the goodness to encourage the author with solid favours." The materials collected for that work were sufficient for two volumes folio; but Mr. Archdall was constrained, from a want of national patronage, to curtail his labours, and print the work, in the year 1786, as it at present appears, in one volume quarto. We regret to have the opportunity of observing that, even in a form so limited, only few copies were sold during the life of the author. Mr. Archdall's enlarged edition of the Peerage of Ireland by Lodge, was published in 1789. This amiable man, and very useful writer, died on the 6th of August, 1791.

SLANE CASTLE, the seat of Henry Barton Conyngham, Marquess Conyngham, is a spacious and splendid structure, occupying an elevated site on the banks of the river Boyne. The mansion comprises parts of the castle built by the Flemings, lords of Slane, greatly altered and enlarged, at different periods since the estate has been vested in the noble family to which it at present belongs. The most important alterations were made by the Right Hon. William Conyngham, in 1785, and several following years, after the designs of the late Mr. James Wyatt. The entrance to the castle, and considerable improvements of the interior, were executed at a more recent date, under the direction of Francis Johnston, Esq., architect of the board of works.

The exterior features of the building are in the style termed modern gothic, and the embattled parapets and aspiring turrets produce romantic and striking combinations, at many points of view; but the boasted *picturesque of architecture* is here attained by the sacrifice of consistency. As a whole, the fabric is imposing, and indeed magnificent; but it does not, in its component parts, bear resemblance to the castle, or other pile of building, of any known antient period in the history of our national architecture. The interior contains many spacious and superb apartments.

The grounds by which this mansion is surrounded are extensive, and extremely beautiful.* They present much inequality of surface, and are richly clothed with wood. The river Boyne here winds through its most attractive shores. Devious in its course; its rocky and partially wooded banks afford a lovely variety of scenery. Through several breaks of the noble woods and wide plantations, the neat village, and the ruins of the abbey, combine

* It is recorded by Mr. Walker that six of the antient instruments, termed *Corabanas*, were found by persons digging in the park of Slane, in the year 1781. The *corabana* is described by this writer as a "chorus instrument of the antient Irish, of a complex form, and consisting of two circular plates of brass, connected by a wire of the same metal, twisted in a worm-like manner, which jingled round the shanks when the plates were struck upon by the fingers. It was used for the purpose of keeping time." *Hist. Mem. of Irish Bards*, p. 90.

happily with the cultivated landscape.—It will be long remembered in the annals of this mansion, that his majesty, King George IV. honoured Slane Castle with his presence, in the month of August, 1821.

Contiguous to the above demesne is BEAUPARK, the seat of G. Lambart, Esq. The mansion is spacious, and the extensive grounds, which are richly wooded, and encompassed with a wall, partake of the characteristics and attractions of the neighbouring territory. These demesnes, indeed, borrow and communicate charms; whilst, by their seeming union, the aspect of decorative cultivation is spread over an unusual extent of prospect.

Adjacent to the demesne of Slane Castle, towards the south, is STACKALLAN, the seat of Gustavus Hamilton, *Viscount Boyne*, and Baron Hamilton, *of Stackallan*. This fine residence is situated, with impressive propriety, near the banks of the river which imparts a title to its noble owner, and was the scene of the exploits which led to the selection of that title, when his lordship's ancestor was advanced in the Irish peerage. Gustavus, first Viscount BOYNE, among other important services in the wars consequent upon the expulsion of the Stuart family, headed a regiment at the battle of the Boyne, and narrowly escaped death, having his horse killed under him. He was created Baron Hamilton, of Stackallan, in 1715; and Viscount Boyne, in 1717. His lordship died September 16th, 1723, in the 84th year of his age, and is buried in the church of Stackallan, where also are interred his lady, and many other members of this distinguished family.

DOWTH, or DOUTH, situated on the river Boyne, at the distance of two and a half miles from Slane, gives the title of Viscount to the family of Netterville, whose ancestor, Sir Formal de Netterville, entered Ireland in the reign of Henry II. Richard Netterville, son of Sir Formal, married Catharine, daughter of Hugh de Lacy, lord of Meath, and settled on the estate of Douth, which has ever since remained a seat of the elder branch of this family. Nicholas

Netterville was created Viscount Netterville, *of Dowth*, by King James I. in 1632. The mansion of Dowth is finely situated, and commands extensive views over a country highly cultivated, and rendered, at several points, interesting by memorable passages of history.*

At New GRANGE, near Slane, is a celebrated and interesting work of antiquity, often termed a subterranean *temple*, but which may be described, with a greater appearance of correctness, as a place of sepulture, of a very unusual character, constructed in the interior of a tumulus. This vestige has produced rather extensive dissertations from several writers, the most important of whose opinions we notice in the following remarks.

The large earthen mound in which this tomb is worked, is of an irregular form, and was originally surrounded with upright stones, unhewn and of a vast size; several of which still remain. On the summit of the mount stood a single stone, of the same character. In the possession of this stony circle the monument of New Grange exhibited a marked distinction from the generality of barrows, both in Ireland and Great Britain; and the interior works present a still more curious deviation from the prevalent character of tumuli in these countries. The discovery of its contents is said, by Dr. Ledwich, to have taken place about the year 1699; at which time "a Mr. Campbell, who resided at New Grange, observing stones under the green sod, carried much of them away to repair a road; and proceeding in this work, he, at length, arrived at a broad flat stone, that covered the mouth of a gallery."

The entrance to this gallery, which is on the north side of the mount, is so low and confined, that a man can gain admission only by placing himself in a flat position. He then finds himself in a long avenue, the sides and roof of which are formed of large

* The action between the armies of William III. and James II. emphatically termed *the Battle of the Boyne*, took place on the borders of the river in this neighbourhood. Our account of that important transaction is presented in our description of the county of Louth.

and rude stones. Towards its termination the gallery throws off two short branches, to the right and left; beyond which, on a right line with the avenue, is a recess, not very different in size from these lateral branches, or cells. Thus, the plan of this subterraneous structure is in the form of a cross, the shaft, or stem, of which is long and taper.

Dissimilar measurements of the different parts have been given by Molyneux, in his discourse on Danish Monuments, and by Dr. Ledwich, in the *Antiquities of Ireland*. The latter, which we believe to be the most correct, are as follow. "At the entrance the gallery is three feet wide and two feet high. At thirteen feet from the entrance it is but two feet two inches wide. The length of the gallery, from its mouth to the beginning of the dome, is sixty-two feet; from thence to the upper part of the dome eleven feet six inches. The whole length seventy-one feet six inches. The length, between the arms of the cross, is twenty feet. The dome forms an octagon, twenty feet high, with an area of about seventeen."

The sides, or walls, of the gallery are composed of large stones, placed upright and close to each other. The whole are dissimilar in size, and are unbewn. The roof is formed of flat stones, some of which are not less than nineteen feet in length; the whole being supported by the stones of the side walls. This roof increases progressively in height, as it advances towards the centre of the mount, where a greater altitude was allowed to the design, from the conical form of the superincumbent earthwork. The dome, to which the gallery leads, is composed of long and flat stones, each projecting a little over that immediately beneath, with one large and flat stone placed on the top. No mortar, or other cement, appears to have been used in any part of the structure.

Although the stones are not squared, or shaped, several bear marks of the tool, in carved devices, or ornamental particulars, apparently placed without any attention to order; amongst which spiral lines, and the circular and zig-zag forms, are prevailing features. Some examiners have also believed that they discovered

the traces of letters; and a supposed inscription is engraved in Ledwich's *Antiquities of Ireland*. But it requires a warm imagination to discover characters of writing, in any of these rude carvings. Sir Richard Hoare, whose experience in the investigation of the most ancient sepulchral remains of the British isles, far exceeds that of any other person, speaking of this monument, in his "Tour," observes "that those *marks* which he noticed on many of the stones, bore very little resemblance to letters, and a great similarity to the ornaments he has found on the ancient British urns, discovered under tumuli in Wiltshire."

In one of the three recesses which form the head and branches of the cross, is a stone basin, or vase; and a similar basin was originally placed in each of the other recesses. This vessel is about three feet six inches in length, and three feet two inches in depth. It was first noticed by Sir R. Hoare, that, within its excavated part, are two circular cavities; placed by the side of each other, and about the size of a child's head.

We are told by Dr. Molyneux that, "when the cave was first opened, two entire skeletons, not burned, were found on the floor." From some MS. additions made by Mr. Wright to the "*Loathiana*," we learn that these remains of mortality were found near a pillar, at no great distance from the centre of the ditch, and that Deers' horns, and other bones were also discovered. These animal vestiges, like those of the human form, did not appear to have undergone cremation.

Dr. Molyneux, and many succeeding writers, ascribed this very curious monument to the Danes. Such a conjecture was well suited to the opinions of Dr. Ledwich, who appears anxious to attribute to that people all subjects of antiquity which baffle ready inquiry. This latter writer, however, finds some difficulty in ascribing to the Danes the mode of sepulture here adopted, which he endeavours to solve by supposing that the builders of this fabric were but "*semi-Christians*;" as, except the cruciform plan of the tomb, every circumstance evidently displays pagan practices. The period to which he assigns the monument is the early part of the ninth century; at which time "piscatorial rovers" from the

north greatly infested Ireland. "They generally debarked," writes this antiquary, "in the Boyne, where, securing their ships, they spread devastation around, to a considerable extent,"—and then, in conformity to their habits as piratical rovers, returned to their ships, and departed with their booty.—Can any person, not predetermined to overlook the grossest improbabilities, agree with this writer in believing that a band of freebooters, in the haste and tarmoil of a piratical expedition, found leisure to construct a tomb requiring so much labour, beneath a vast mound of earth, surrounded by ponderous stones?

Whilst we decline to acquiesce in the opinions of Dr. Ledwich, we are compelled to state that there appears to be considerable difficulty in appropriating, by rational conclusions, this singular tomb to its due nation and date. The form of the cross, adopted in the plan of the interior, alone prevents the inquirer from ascribing it, without hesitation, to a remote period in the Celtic and Belgic occupancy of the island.

On this subject the reader may be reminded that the figure of the cross was used by the ancient Egyptians, as a symbol of future life. It is also worthy of remark, that, in Borlase's *Antiquities of Cornwall*, may be seen an engraving of a temple, in the island of *Lewes*, consisting of upright and unhewn stones, disposed most distinctly in a cruciform manner, having a circular area in the upper part, from which the cross branches diverge.

If this difficulty be surmounted, there exists no obstacle to our ascribing the monument at *New Grange* to the native Irish, of a very distant date. Several barrows, or tumuli, in England, the undoubted works of Celtic or Belgic tribes, have been found to contain a gallery, or passage, formed of large stones, and leading to one or more *Kistvaens*, or small roofed places of sepulture.

DULKEE, a decayed town, of much former consequence, is situated near the northern extremity of the county, on the borders of the *Nannay* water. The earliest historical circumstances relating to this place, are connected with its religious foundations,

with the prosperity and decline of which, the fortunes of Duleek, indeed, rose and fell. It is said that an abbey was built here by St. Patrick, who placed over the new institution St. Kienan, or Cienan, a holy personage baptized by him in the year 450. Within the walls of this building were deposited, for a short time, the remains of the renowned monarch of Ireland, Brien Boirhoimh, together with those of his son and grandson, who fell at the battle of Clontarf, A.D. 1014. These sacred ashes were removed hence, for sepulture at Armagh.

This abbey was repeatedly plundered by the Danes, and was thrice destroyed by fire, the last conflagration taking place in 1169. The building then condemned to the flames is recorded, in the annals of the four Masters, to have been composed of stone; and, if we may rely on the testimony adduced by Ware, the fabric raised by St. Kienan was formed of the same material.* It appears that, in the year 1182, Hugh de Lacy refounded this abbey, as a cell to the priory of Lanthony, near Gloucester, for canons regular following the rule of St. Augustin. The foundation was richly endowed, and, after the suppression of religious houses, nearly the whole of its extensive possessions were granted to Sir Gerald, or Garrett, Moore, afterwards created Baron Moore of Mellefont, and Viscount Drogheda, from whom they have partly descended to the present Marquess of Drogheda. Considerable remains of the abbey-church, or cathedral, still exist, including a tower through which is worked a gate of entrance.

A *Priory*, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was founded here for regular canons, by the family of O'Kelly, before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. The greater part of the lands, and other possessions, of this monastery were also granted, after the

* "It is said in the 'Office of St. Kenan', which is extant in MS. in the public library at Cambridge, that St. Kenan built a church of stone in this place, and that from thence it took the name of *Damleagh*; *Daimh*, in the old Irish, signifying a house, and *liag* a stone." Ware's Bishops, p. 137 and note. On the authority of this passage in Ware, it is popularly said that the antient church of Duleek was the first church in Ireland built of stone.

dissolution, to Sir Gerald Moore, at the annual rent of £9: 11: 7. and on condition of " his maintaining an archer on the said lands, for ever." There was, likewise, an hospital in this town, concerning which few historical traces have been discovered.

Duleek was constituted an episcopal see by St. Kienan, himself sitting as the first bishop ; which see was united, in an early age, to the bishoprick of Meath. After the entry of the Anglo-Normans this manor became part of the estate of the family of Verdon, or de Verdon, who held here courts leet and baron. From the manuscript collections of Sir W. Betham we learn that the town of Duleek had a *Provost*, so lately as the reign of Edward II.

SOMERVILLE, the mansion of Sir Marcus Somerville, Bart. a representative of the county of Meath in the Imperial Parliament, is finely situated on the banks of the Nannay water. The house, a spacious and very respectable structure, occupies an elevated and commanding site, and is surrounded by an extensive and beautiful demesne. The river Nannay here widens into the resemblance of a lake, and the grounds, which abound with inequalities of surface favourable to the picturesque, are enriched by much venerable wood.

ATHCARNE CASTLE, on the borders of the Nannay water, comes under the description of a fortified house, but is of no great extent or beauty. On one of the walls are the remains of a coat of arms, and the following initials and date : W. B. I. D. 1590. This structure was a residence of the De Bathe family, long respectably seated in the county of Meath.

PLATTEN, a seat two miles from Duleek, towards the north-east, occupies the site of a large and fine castle, erected by the family of D'Arcy, the first of which family that attained distinction in Ireland was Sir John D'Arcy, several times chief governor in the reign of Edward II. and his successor ; from which Sir John were descended the D'Arcies settled at Platten. Sir William D'Arcy, vice-treasurer of Ireland in 1523, and author of a work

termed "The Decay of Ireland, and the causes of it," was born in the castle of Platten, and died here, at a very advanced age, in the year 1540.

GORMANSTON, a village to the south-east of Duleek, on the road to Drogheda, and in the vicinity of the sea-coast, gives the title of viscount to the family of Preston, who have a large and handsome seat at this place. The manor of Gormanston, extending into the counties of Meath and Dublin, was first acquired by this family in the reign of Edward III. Sir Robert Preston, deputy to Richard, Duke of York, Lord Deputy of Ireland, was created Viscount Gormanston in 1478.

SKRYNE, also written SKRINE, and SCREEN, which imparts its name to a barony in this county, is now a place of little consideration, but was formerly the chief seat of the De Feipo family. Adam de Feipo, on whom Hugh de Lacy bestowed large possessions in this part of Meath, built a castle here, of which the ruins still remain. The family of Marward were palatinate barons of Skryne in the fifteenth century, and remained so until the time of Queen Elizabeth, in whose reign Jenet, the daughter and heir of the last baron, carried this estate, by marriage, to William Nugent, Esq. An abbey of regular canons had existed in this town from an early period, which sank to decay in the twelfth century, or was merged in a friary of Augustinian Eremites, founded by the De Feipo family; some ruinous traces of which are still to be seen. A new church has been recently erected at this place, with the aid of £500 given, and the same sum lent, by the Board of First Fruits. The country in this part of Meath abounds in natural charms, and is highly cultivated.

TARAGH, about nineteen miles from Dublin, and five miles from Dunshaglin, towards the north-west, is of great antiquarian interest, from its connexion with important national solemnities in the early periods of Irish history. The HILL OF TARAGH, or TEAMOR, from *Teagh-mor*, the great house, or *Teagh-mor-ragh*,

the great house of the king, is celebrated as the place of the triennial assembly of the states, for many early ages, down to the middle of the sixth century. This periodical parliament, or convention, was called the Fes of Teamor, and is said to have consisted of *the Monarch*, the Kings of Leinster, Munster, Ulster, and Connaught; together with the nobility, priests, historians, antiquaries, and "men of learning, distinguished by their abilities in all arts and professions." We are told that affairs of state were here regulated; laws made or repealed; and the national records examined. It is added, by the writers who state the above particulars, that an abstract of all the provincial records was, during the sittings of these assemblies, entered into the work called the *Psalter of Taragh*, or, as it is sometimes denominated, *Senachas-More*, or great antiquity; a performance which has not descended to posterity.

Not only were assemblies of the states held on this celebrated hill, but it is said that the Kings of Ireland had here their principal palace, contiguous to which was an University, supported by their munificence. Very florid descriptions of the splendour of this royal palace, and of the state with which the monarchs held their court, have been given by some writers. For minute particulars we refer to the pages of Keating, O'Flaherty, and O'Halloran, or to the compendious view of those writings presented in the *History of Ireland* lately commenced by Mr. M'Dermot.*

* The following extract from the last-named author will convey some idea of the magnificence attributed to the monarchs of Ireland, in the third century of the Christian era:—"The splendour of this monarch" (Cormac) "is highly celebrated in our annals. One hundred and fifty massy cups of gold and silver decorated his sideboard, on festival days; one hundred and fifty of the Clana Morni, or Connaught knights, attended on his person, and his palace was guarded by one thousand soldiers. He enlarged and decorated the palace of Tara, and kept an open table for fifteen hundred persons. The officers of the court were, a prince of the blood royal, as companion; a chief judge, to consult as privy counsellor; a chief druid, to direct him in spiritual affairs; a chief physician; an antiquarian; a poet laureat; a musician, and three stewards to superintend the contributions of the provinces, and the oeconomy of his household. He

The real character of this palatial structure has excited some discussion, and there certainly is reason to conclude that the buildings were fragile, temporary, and not composed of stone, as no traces of ruins are discernible on the hill, which is a lofty but gently-rising eminence, in the midst of a very extensive plain. Considerable remains of circular earth-works denote the former places of assembly, and probably of residence; but of the palace and the colleges, possibly protected by those intrenchments, no vestige exists, or is recorded ever to have been seen. Equally devoid of palatial ruins are, indeed, those hill-fortresses of the sister island, in which the Celtic Kings of Britain held their respective courts.

After the English obtained supremacy in Ireland, the Hill of Tara was used as the place for the general *hostings*, or musters of men under arms, which were held for the service of the state.*

added three colleges to the University at Tara; a military and historic academy; and a college for the study of the law. A poem of Duvegan, containing 183 verses, commencing with the words "Teamhair na Ríogh, Rath Cormoc," i. e. Tara, seat of kings, and palace of Cormoc, records all these domestic arrangements, and the splendid profusion of the palace of Tara." *Hist. of Ireland* by M'Dermot, vol. I. pp. 351-2.

* The various rules and regulations respecting *Hosting*, may be seen in the work termed "A Breviate of the getting of Ireland, and of the Decaile of the same, written by Patrick Finglass, first chief baron, and afterwards chief justice, of Ireland, in the reign of Henry VIII." Many of these regulations are also printed in "Hibernica," or some pieces relating to Ireland, edited by Walter Harris Esq. We present some excerpts, calculated to exhibit the extent and character of these military musters.

"All lordes and gentilmen and widows of the foure shires shall send an able man, well appointed for warr, for everie twenty pounds that he may dispend yerely, to goe wythe the deputy to an hosting, with jacks and skulls, bowes and arrowes; and whee cannot dispend twenty pounds, together to be cessed after that rate.

"*Item*, that no Englishman dwelling within Maghregon doe take no spear with him to the field, except he hath a bowe or pavice, (pavice is a piece of defensive armour worn by the ancients, being the largest sort of bucklers, whose side bent inwards, and formed a light portable *testudo*; in which sense it differed from a target) upon paine of forfeiting six shillings and eight pence, and loosing of his spear *toties quoties*.

The most recent historical event connected with this hill, relates to the year 1798. On the evening of the twenty-sixth of May, in that year, a large body of rebels, that had assembled here, was routed, with the loss of not less than 350 men, by a party of the royal forces, in unison with Lord Fingall's troop of yeoman cavalry, and some other bands of yeomanry.

In the vicinity of the hill of Taragh were several religious foundations, indicative of the former celebrity of the place, and the attractions it at once held forth to the pious, the affluent, and the powerful.

At LISMULLEN, about two miles to the north of Taragh, a priory was founded, in the year 1240, by Alicia, sister to Richard de la Corner, bishop of Meath. The nuns of this house followed the rule of St. Augustin. Maria Cusack was the last prioress, and surrendered the priory and its possessions in the thirty-first of Henry VIII. The buildings, and part of the estates, were granted by Edward VI, to Thomas Casack.

Lismullen has been, for some time, the seat of a branch of the noble family of Dillon, and constitutes, in ecclesiastical arrangement, a part of the union of Skryne. John Dillon, of Lismullen Esq. who had represented in parliament the borough of Ratoath, in this county, received from his Imperial Majesty, Joseph II. in the year 1783, the dignity of a free baron of the sacred Roman Empire, with limitations to his issue, male and female. This honour was conferred in consequence of the active part taken by Mr. Dillon, in the Irish House of Commons, in the discussion of several measures adopted by the legislature for the relief of the Roman Catholics of Ireland; and he was permitted to accept of this distinction by his late Majesty, George III.

"When the hosting is concluded a captain is to be elected, who is to be their baron at that hosting, if taken prisoner, to be ransomed. The ransom to be cessed on every twenty pounds of land.

"No yeoman was to ride in the field. Bowmen were also to go on foot, except the great captain." *Hibernica*, &c. Edit. 1747. pp. 44-46.

ODDEN, two miles to the south of Taragh, is the site of a Nunnery, founded in honour of St. Brigid, by the family of Barnowall, for regular canonesses of the order of St. Augustin. Several *cells* of nuns, in the county of Meath, were annexed to this house. Margaret Silke, the last abbess, surrendered the nunnery and its appurtenances in the thirty-first of Henry VIII.

At *Rosse* and *Trevet*, near Taragh, were also religious institutions, of which little is now known.

KILLEEN CASTLE, the noble mansion of the Earl of Fingall, is situated near the small town of *Dunshaghtlin*. This castle was originally built by De Lacy, about the year 1180, and was, for many ages, the seat of the Cusack family, from whom it passed to that of Plunkett, by the marriage of Joan, daughter and sole heir to Sir Lucas Cusack Knt, Lord of Killeen, Donsany, and Gerardston, with Sir Christopher Plunkett, who, in 1439, was deputy to Sir Thomas Stanley, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In this family, who were through nine descents styled Barons of Killeen, the estate has since remained, and has, with few interruptions, constituted their principal residence. Lucas, the tenth lord baron of Killeen, termed *Lucas More* (the great) was created Earl of Fingall by King James I, in 1628. Arthur James Plunkett, the present nobleman, is eighth Earl of Fingall and seventeenth lord of Killeen. The castle of Killeen, in its existing state, has few visible traces of high antiquity, but the ancient, or "gothic," style of architectural arrangement, has been sedulously, and with a very pleasing effect, cultivated in the extensive alterations made under the direction of the present Earl. Large and tasteful additions, comprising several fine apartments, have been recently carried into execution, after the designs of the able architect Mr. Francis Johnston. His lordship has also improved the demesne by plantations to a great extent, which are in a thriving condition.

At a short distance from the castle is a venerable and interesting church, built under the auspices of Sir Christopher Plunkett, in the early part of the reign of the fourth Edward. In this church

are numerous monuments of the Plunkett family, among which is that of the founder, who died in 1445, and Joan Cusack, his wife, who died in 1441. Sir Christopher and his lady founded, in the church of their erection, a chantry of four priests, to pray for their souls. There was also founded, in the same structure, a Guild, or Fraternity, consisting of brethren and sisters, termed the *Guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Killeen*.—It is believed that an abbey was founded at this place, by St. Endeus, in the sixth century; and also a Nunnery, in which was interred St. Pancha, sister of the founder.

At the distance of one mile from Killeen is DUNSANY CASTLE, the seat of Edward-Wadding Plunket, Lord Dunsany. The estate of Dunsany was long vested in the Cusack family, and passed, with that of Killeen, to the family of Plunket, or Plunkett, on the marriage of Joan, daughter and heir of Sir Lucas Cusack, with Sir Christopher Plunkett, as before mentioned. The barony and lands of Dunsany descended to Sir Christopher, second son of the above named Sir Christopher Plunkett, and have ever since remained with his posterity. The present nobleman is the fourteenth baron. The castle of Dunsany was originally erected in the twelfth century, and probably by Adam de Feipo, but has been re-edified in a style allusive to the "Gothic," but adapted to modern taste and habits. The park is well suited to the mansion, in extent and beauty, and contains an antient church, in which are interred many of the former barons, and various members of their family. On this demesne is also a lofty rath, or *Dun*, from which the estate evidently derives the first part of its appellation.

WESTMEATH.

This inland county is bounded throughout the whole of its eastern limits by Meath, sometimes termed Eastmeath, with which district it was united until the reign of Henry VIII.* On the south it meets the King's County. On the west it is separated from Roscommon and the province of Connaught by the river Shannon. On the north-west lies the small county of Longford; and its extreme northern part approaches the county of Cavan. Westmeath, according to Dr. Beaufort, is divided into the twelve baronies of *Clonlonan*; *Moyonashel*; *Fartullagh*; *Farbill*; *Moyonashel and Magheradernon*; *Dolvin*; *Half Fowre*; *Moygoish*; *Corherry*; *Rathconrath*; *Kilbenny-west*, and the *territory*, as it is called, of *Brawny*. But this statement differs widely in point of orthography from that presented in the "Account of attempts made to ascertain the population of Ireland;" a circumstance which we are induced to notice, as it exhibits the uncertainty which, in many respects, inevitably attends chorographical, or other local investigations in this country. The twelve baronies are subdivided into 62 parishes; 59 of which are in the diocese of Meath, and the remainder in the bishopric of Ardagh.

This county is not of a mountainous character, but is finely unequal in many parts, and is rendered greatly attractive by inland sheets of water and rich sprinklings of wood. The numerous lakes, indeed, abound in varieties of the picturesque, which may be examined without effort or toil, and render this county particularly agreeable to the traveller. The wood, with the exception of ornamental plantations, is chiefly confined to the steep uplands, and is often spread in deep shade over the bosom of hills which rise on the margin of the lakes. The soil is in general good,

* In our general remarks on the district at present termed Meath, or East Meath, we present some historical particulars, which equally apply to the tract now under consideration.

with a substratum of lime-stone; and the rich verdure fattens great numbers of excellent cattle and sheep. In different parts of the county are found copper, lead, coal, and yellow and dove-coloured marbles. But these do not occur in a profitable abundance, and the great dependance of the inhabitants is on agriculture and pasturage. A considerable quantity of bog, both of the red and black kind, is scattered over every part of the county.

No part of Ireland, or perhaps of any other country, is better watered than this district. Independent of its loughs, or lakes, and of the noble river Shannon, which has been already noticed as forming its western boundary, it is skirted, or intersected, by the *Fany*, the *Dole*, the *Brosna*, and several minor streams.—The principal lakes are named *Lough Iron*; *Lough Derivaragh*; *Lough Heil*; *Lough Ennel*; and *Lough Lene*; to which may be added a fine expanse of water formed by the Shannon in the north-western part of the county, dotted with islands lovely in mantles of wood, and termed *Lough Ree*. The scenery of these lakes is, in general, marked by a soothing air of tranquillity, rather than by the majestic graces which dignify the banks of some inland waters; and numerous are the spots which might inspire a wish similar to that of Colonel Reynolds, as noticed by Sir Henry Piers, in his description of Westmeath, inserted in the *Collectanea*. That officer, whilst marching across the country, in the unhappy wars of the seventeenth century, halted on the banks of Lough Derivaragh, and “was so-taken with the amenity of the prospect, and the beauty of the landscape, and the most ravishing echoes that redoubled to him the noise of his trumpets, that he exclaimed he never came to the like place, and is said to have wished he could, even then, with leisure and safety, sit down and take up his rest here.”

For the following historical particulars, relating to the ancient families of this county, we are indebted to the Chev. De Montmorency; and for much important information concerning the history of estates, and their occupants, in the same district, this work is also under obligations to the MSS. of that gentleman.—

Westmeath afforded one of the earliest settlements to the Anglo-Normans, in the twelfth century, and constituted a portion of the palatinate of Hugh de Lacy, to whom a patent of proprietorship was granted by King Henry II. The O'Melaghlinas were ancient sovereigns of the kingdom of Meath, which territory comprised the districts termed, in modern times, East and West Meath, with parts of the adjacent King's County and County of Dublin. Among other ancient Irish proprietors may be named the Mac Geoghegans, dynasts of Moycashell; the O'Moelbrenans, or Brenans; O'Coffys; O'Mulladys; O'Malones; O'Dalys; O'Higgins; Magawleys, of Colry; Magans, of Dunáigan; O'Shannagh, or Fox; O'Finilan, of Delvin; and O'Cuishin. Many of the descendants of these old proprietors enjoyed considerable estates in the county, before the great eras of forfeiture in the seventeenth century, and some traces of them may still be discovered.

The Anglo-Norman settlers uniformly derived under Hugh de Lacy, Lord and Earl of Meath, who partitioned his conquered province amongst his relations and followers, many of whose descendants remain in high consideration at the present time. Of these may be noticed, as the principal, the Petits; the Tuites, or de Tuites; the Husseys, or De Hosc (a family of Brittany); the D'Altons; De la Mars; Dillons; De Nugents; Hopes; and Wares; the families of De Nangle, or D'Angelo; De Ledewich; De Geneville; Dardis; Gaynor; and De Constantin.

In ages subsequent to the first Anglo-Norman settlement, but previous to the Reformation, the following were the chief families who fixed themselves in this county. The D'Arcys; Jones, or Fitzjohns; Tyrrells; Fitzgeralds; the Owens; Shanes; and Piers.

Subsequent to the Reformation, the Lambart family obtained grants of church lands; and, since the year 1641, grants were made of forfeited estates to the families of Pakenham; Wood; Cooke; Stoyte; Reynell; Winter; Levinge; Wilson; Judge; Rochford; Handcock; Bonyng; Gay; Handy; Ogle; Middleton; Swift; Burtle; and St. George.

The latest settlers in this county are the families of Smith; Featherston; Chapman; Cliberne; Arabin; Browne; O'Reilly

(of Ballynough); Longworth; Purdon; Nagle (of Jamestown); De Blaquiere; and North. Many other families, constituting a respectable class of gentry, have acquired estates in this county by purchase, or by that truly honourable medium the exercise of industrious pursuits, in the course of the last century. Among recent settlers, the family of Nagle alone claim from an ancient proprietor; they having inherited, in the female line, from Mac Geoghegan, and removed hither from Cork, where the ancestors of Sir Richard Nagle have been long seated.

There are no towns in this county, of great extent or commercial importance;* but the most fertile districts are very thickly spread with the seats of nobility and gentry. Mr. Wakefield notices, among the principal landholders, the Duke of Buckingham; the Earl of Longford; Sir Richard Levinge; Sir Thomas Chapman; and the families of Pollard, Rochford, and Daese. This list might be easily extended; but it is sufficient for our purpose to observe that there are no very large estates in this county, whilst there prevails a very estimable mediocrity of property, constituting a numerous class of resident gentry.

It would appear that the peasantry of this district are scarcely in such abject circumstances as those of the adjoining county of Meath, although the cabins are too frequently of a wretched description; the walls composed of mud, the smoke escaping through a hole in the roof, and the cold earth constituting the floor.† The women are particularly hardy and laborious. Their

* The town of **ATHLONE** is partly in Westmeath and partly in Roscommon. In this work it is noticed under the head of the latter county.

† The interior of a cabin in Westmeath is thus characteristically described by a recent writer: "a hay-band, so neatly twisted as to be almost equal to a tow rope, is stretched across the cabin, nearly over the fire place, for hanging the linen to dry; but as the place is generally involved in thick smoke, it may be readily conceived that it will acquire little improvement in colour. A cat and two or three dogs, are commonly lying round the fire. An iron pot, two or three stools of the rudest workmanship, a bad deal table, a dresser with a few plates, and dairy vessels, are all the utensils and furniture of the family. Their stock of provision consists of a sack of meal, which is placed in a corner. Many of the tenants

dress (a jacket and petticoat) is of linsey, manufactured by themselves; and nearly all the peasantry abstain from the use of shoes and stockings, as much from habit as through poverty. The long *trusty* is much in use amongst the men.

This county affords to the antiquary many earthworks, both of native and Danish construction, together with vestiges of ecclesiastical and castellated architecture. Westmeath gives the title of Marquess and Earl to the family of Nugent.

We are sorry to observe that this district was reprehensibly deficient, in making replies to inquiries under the act for ascertaining the population, in 1812. Admissible returns were then made by no more than three baronies; and two of those returns were considered to be not altogether unobjectionable. According to the returns obtained in the year 1821, the number of *houses* in the county of Westmeath was 23,478, and the number of *inhabitants* 128,042.

MULLINGAR, OR MOLINGAR,

The assize town of this county, consists of one main street, above a mile in length, with many narrow streets and lanes, branching from the great line of thoroughfare. The houses are of stone, covered with slate, and the population appears, very generally, to enjoy a considerable degree of comfort, the natural consequence of a perseverance in industrious habits. The wool and horse fairs rank among the most considerable in Ireland. Independent of its direct commercial pursuits, the town derives important benefit from many respectable private families, who have here a permanent residence.

Allemand, though not often correct in his etymological derivations, appears to deduce, with propriety, the name of this place from *St. Moling*. In regard to the latter syllable of the name by which the town has been long distinguished, it is observed, by the Chevalier De Montmorency, that the true orthography is probably *jar*; i. e. the west: such a term of designation being applied to here are bound by their leases to carry their oats to their landlord's mill." Wakefield, v. 2. p. 182.

distinguish this town from St. Molin's, situated to the eastward, in the county of Carlow.—If we admit the probable correctness of the above etymology, we may safely conclude that a monastery existed here, coeval with the abbey in Carlow (founded in the seventh century) although such a religious institution is not noticed in the *Monasticon Hibernicum*.

A Priory of Canons regular, of the order of St. Augustin, termed the "House of God, of Mullingar," was founded at this place by Ralph le Petit, bishop of Meath, A. D. 1227; which house, with its possessions, was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Tuile family.

A Dominican Friary, which became one of the most celebrated houses of that order in all Ireland, was founded by the family of Nugent, in the year 1237. General chapters of the order were, at four different times, held in this convent. At the suppressions, the Friary and its estates were granted to Walter Hope, Esq.*

The families of Tuile and Hope having forfeited their possessions in 1641, a grant of the above two houses, with their appurtenances, and divers castles, meadows, gardens, and other property in and about the town of Mullingar, was made by the crown, in 1661, to Sir Arthur Forbes, first Earl of Granard. This grant was confirmed by the acts of settlement; and the town of Mullingar, with contiguous places, was, in 1674, constituted a manor, with many annexed privileges.

* The Dominican friars were suffered to occupy their convent, from the date of general suppression until the year 1690, when, on the arrival of King William's army, commanded by General Douglas, the friars quitted their station, and, to use the words of Mr. Story, "made a pilgrimage into Connaught." When this place was visited by Mr. Archdall, there remained only part of the bell-tower, and some other unimportant ruins. The present Earl of Granard, a nobleman highly valued for his liberal feelings and tolerant principles, granted a lease of the abbey site to the Rev. Lawrence Fitzgerald, a friar of the Dominican order. The church has been rebuilt at the expense of Dr. Fitzgerald, and appropriated by him, as parish priest, to the use of his parishioners. In the immediate vicinity of the church he has also erected neat conventual buildings, for the residence of himself, and the accommodation of a few ecclesiastics, professing the rules of St. Dominick.

In regard to historical events, unconnected with ecclesiastical foundations, it may be observed that, in the year 1329, Mac Geoghagan, dynast of Kynaliagh, or Moycashell, defeated near this town an English force, under Lord Thomas le Botiller, who fell in the action. In the last internal war of the seventeenth century, Mullingar was a principal rendezvous of the army of King William. General de Ginkie fortified and made this place tenable, Colonel Brewer being named governor of the town. Upon the conclusion of peace, in November, 1691, the fortifications were demolished.

The antient family of De Petit, or Le Petit, formerly bore the title of Baron of Mullingar, in the palatinate of Meath. This family continued in great reputation until the troubles of the seventeenth century;—a time so generally subversive of the dignity of antient names in Ireland. Count Mainhard de Schomberg, or De Schonberg, was created by King William III. Duke of Leinster and Baron of Mullingar.*

* We must not conclude our notice of this town, without offering some remarks on the old and well-known saying, "*When the King comes to Mullingar*;"—a circumstance believed, according to the meaning of this saying, to be so very improbable, that any boon may be safely promised, the performance of which depends on the actual occurrence of a royal visit. By degrees, this mode of expressing a thing, improbable beyond all rational calculation, has grown into very general use in the town and neighbourhood; and has even been adopted, in some instances, as a legal method of stating a contingency. Thus, several leases of lands and houses are granted in supposed actual perpetuity, i. e. *until the king shall come to Mullingar*. Persons holding under this whimsical tenure were naturally much alarmed on the visit made to Ireland by King George IV.—The origin of the saying is not decidedly known, and we leave it for the reader to determine which of the two following traditions is the more worthy of acceptance.—By some persons it is said that, previous to the battle at the Boyne, the Catholic inhabitants of Mullingar boasted that, if James succeeded, he would, on arriving at this town, withdraw the corporation franchises from the protestants, and vest the same in catholic freemen. When William III. prevailed, the protestants retaliated on their disappointed neighbours, and tauntingly rebuked any extravagant expectation, by remarking that probably such an anticipated event *might* take place—"when the king should come to Mullingar!"—Other oral and traditionary historians assert that a

On the 18th of August, 1783, a very brilliant meteor was visible in the neighbourhood of this town. It appeared about half-past nine in the evening, and was visible during ten or fifteen seconds. Mr. Edgeworth, who witnessed this singular natural phenomenon, describes it to have been about one third of the moon's diameter, and observes that it moved from the north, with an equable velocity, at an elevation of about ten or twelve degrees, in a line parallel to the horizon. It exhibited the most vivid colours; the foremost part being of the brightest blue, followed by different shades of red. Twice, during its flight, it was eclipsed, or extinguished; not gradually, but at once, immersing and emerging with undiminished lustre. For further particulars the reader is referred to the 74th volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society.

A second natural phenomenon likewise requires notice in this place.

In 1779, during a peal of thunder, a stone descended from the atmosphere into a meadow at *Pettitswood*, near Mullingar. At the instant of its fall the village became enveloped with sulphureous fumes, which continued for about six minutes. This *aërolite* was of a flat, cake-like figure, and weighed rather more than four ounces and a half. It was warm when it fell, was covered with a whitish-brown coat, and in other respects, as far as can be judged from the only description of it extant, resembled the stones which have so often fallen from the atmosphere, both in ancient and in

person having a disputed account to settle with one of the ancestors of Lord Westmeath, and a claim on his estate, which the latter could not be induced to settle amicably, the complainant appealed to the king (but to what king is not told) who answered that he should shortly visit Ireland, and that, on his arrival at Mullingar, he would compel the refractory lord to do justice to the plaintiff. This declaration of the sovereign being made public, his arrival was anxiously expected. But much time elapsing without his majesty's appearance, the man renewed his applications to the baron, who, as often as a settlement was demanded, uniformly replied, "Yes, my friend! you shall have satisfaction—*When the king shall come to Mullingar.*" This reiterated answer, say our informants, soon grew into a proverb.

modern times. An account of this curious circumstance is preserved in the *Gent. Mag.* for Sept. 1796.

The scenery in the neighbourhood of Mullingar acquires a high degree of beauty from the well-wooded lakes of this district; and we have pleasure in observing that a country so attractive is further enriched by numerous handsome seats.

COOKSBOROUGH, the fine mansion of the Cooke family, is situated near the village of Cloghan. The house is approached through a long avenue of venerable trees, and the demesne has been greatly improved, and abundantly planted, by the present owner. Among some pictures which ornament this seat is a curious portrait of Oliver Cromwell, supposed to be original.

KNOCKDRIN CASTLE, the magnificent seat of Sir Richard Levinge, Bart. has been greatly improved by the present proprietor. The demesne is very extensively planted, and partakes of some beautiful lake scenery.

BALYNAGALL, until a recent period termed *Castle-reynell*, was formerly the property of the Reynell family, of whom it was purchased by the present proprietor, James Gibbons, Esq. By this gentleman a splendid mansion has been erected, after the designs of Mr. Francis Johnston, at the expense, as we believe, of more than 30,000*l.* The demesne constitutes one of the finest, and most extensively planted estates, in this county.

CLONLOST is an antient seat of the family of Nugent. The present owner, James Nugent, Esq. colonel of the Westmeath-militia, derives his descent from Andrew Nugent, of Donouer and Frewgin, Esq. fourth son of James, third Baron of Delvin, ancestor of the Marquess of Westmeath.

KILLUCAN is a neat village, distant from Mullingar nearly six miles, towards the east. According to Archdall an abbey was founded here by St. Luican, at a very early period. The site of

that religious house is now occupied by the parish church, a respectable modern building, surmounted by a handsome spire. The glebe house, situated near the church, is a neat building, agreeably adorned with shrubberies and plantations. In this church is the sepulchral vault of the Pakenham family.*—The inn of this village has obtained considerable notoriety, as the rendezvous of the *Killucan club*, one of the oldest hunting associations in Ireland.

JONISTOWN, near Killucan, is the seat of Peter Purdon, Esq. and several other members of this respectable family possess mansions in the neighbourhood. On the well-planted demesne attached to this house is the *hill of Knockshiban* (Fairy-queen-hill) a celebrated landmark, from the summit of which is obtained an extensive and luxuriant prospect over a varied tract of country.

REYNELLA, the superb residence of Richard Molesworth Reynell, Esq. is situated on a fine demesne, adorned with a lake, and extensive plantations. The family of Reynell first settled in this county in the latter part of the seventeenth century, under the auspices of Sir Richard Reynell, chief justice of the court of king's bench. The eldest branch of the family, now settled in North America, enjoys the title of baronet, conferred in 1678. We must not omit to notice that the father of the present possessor of Reynella, had the merit of introducing into this county many improvements in agricultural pursuits.

DARDISTOWN, the seat of Theobald Featherstonhaugh, Esq. formerly belonged to a branch (now extinct) of the Nugent family. Cuthbert Featherstonhaugh, Esq. of the county of Durham, ancestor of the present proprietor of this demesne, intermarried with the Magans of Emoe, in the reign of William and Mary; and pur-

* For an account of the old church of Killucan, which was a building of considerable antiquity, and the largest parochial church in this county, see Collect. Hib. vol. i. pp. 60-61.

chasing estates in this county, became progenitor of a very respectable line of his antient family, ever since seated in Westmeath.

BRACKLYN CASTLE, one of the finest seats in this county, is the property of Thomas-James Featherston, Esq. This noble residence and damesne are entirely indebted for their improvements and attractions, to the family at present possessing the estate. Bracklyn Castle was originally the seat of a branch of the Nugent family, styled of Moyrath,* which sprung from William, first baron of Delvin, by William Oge, second son of that baron. From the Nugents this estate passed, by sale, to the family of Pakenham, by whom it was again sold to the present proprietors. Contiguous to the above named seat is **ROCKVIEW**, a handsome residence lately erected by James Featherston, Esq. father of Mr. Featherston, of Bracklyn Castle, and eldest son and heir of Thomas Featherstonhaugh, Esq.

CASTLETOWN DELVIN, although nominally the chief town in the barony of Delvin, is of small extent and importance. The castle, which assists in forming the name of this place, was erected in 1181, by Sir Hugh de Lacy, Lord of Meath.—Here is **CLONAN**, or **CLONTN**, the fine seat of the Marquess of Westmeath, chief of the noble family of Nugent, or de Nugent, antient lords of Delvin. This family is lineally descended from Gilbert de Nugent, who came over to Ireland in the train of Sir Hugh de Lacy, in the year 1172. On the latter knightly personage obtaining from king Henry II. a gift of the entire lordship, or kingdom, of Meath, the patrimony of many Irish septs, he granted to de Nugent and his kindred the barony of Delvin, the same to be held of him by certain baronial services. The present nobleman, George Thomas John Nugent, seventeenth baron of Delvin, eighth Earl and first Marquess of Westmeath, was born on the 17th of July, 1785; and married, in 1812, Lady Emily Cecil, second daughter of James, Marquess of Salisbury, K. G.

* See article Moyrath, *County of Meath*.

BALYNLOUGH, a well-wooded seat in this neighbourhood, has been vested, through four generations, in the family of Reilly, or O'Reilly. Hugh O'Reilly, of Balynlough, Esq. was created a baronet in 1795; but, on succeeding to the maternal portion of the estates of the Nugents of Dysert and Tullaghan, Sir Hugh relinquished the name of O'Reilly, and assumed, by royal licence, that of Nugent. - He married Catharine-Mary-Anne, sole daughter and heir of Charles Mathew, of Annefield, county of Tipperary, Esq. by Anne, eldest daughter and co-heir of James Morres, of Rosetown and Two-mile-Borris Castle, county of Tipperary, Esq. youngest son of Sir John Morres, of Knochagh Castle, in the same county, Bart. Sir Hugh deceasing lately, was succeeded in his title and estates by his eldest son, Sir James Nugent, Bart. the present proprietor of Balynlough.

ST. LUCY, near Balynlough, is the spacious seat of Sir Thomas Chapman, Bart. late lieutenant-colonel of the sixth regiment of dragoon guards; which regiment he commanded at the eventful time that the French expedition, under Humbert, effected a landing in the west of Ireland. Thomas Chapman, of St. Lucy, Esq. the first baronet of this family, received his title in 1782. The castle and demesne have recently experienced considerable improvements.

On the Athboy road, in the vicinity of Castletown Delvin, is **MITCHELLSTOWN**, the pleasing demesne of Robert Sterne Tighe, Esq.; and in the same neighbourhood is **SOUTH-HILL**, the seat of Robert Tighe, Esq.

At **DRUMCREE**, formerly existed a monastic institution, of which we believe no trace has been discovered relating to a date less remote than the ninth century. Here is, now, a neat parish church. This place is ornamented with the handsome residence and demesne of Ralph Smyth, Esq. late M. P. for the county of Westmeath.

FORE, or FOWRE, is a district forming two half baronies; one

in this county, the other in Meath. In the former is situated the village of *Fore*,* which, previous to the Union, was deemed a borough town, and sent two members to parliament. The chief celebrity of this place has proceeded from its monastic foundation ; and nearly all that is interesting, in the view of the topographer, concerning the town of *Fore*, is involved in an examination of the annals of that distinguished religious house.

The *Priory of Fore* was founded, for regular canons, by St. Fechin, in the year 630. The founder died A. D. 665, after having presided (as we are told in the annals of the four masters) over a community of three thousand monks ! His festival is still observed, with great devotion, on the 20th of January. Giraldus Cambrensis informs us that no female was suffered to enter this abbey, or its contiguous mill.

The priory frequently suffered by fire, and by the ravages of savage tribes and freebooters. Donat O'Cearbhuill (O'Carroll) of Oirgeal, plundered the town of *Fore*, in 1149. In the year 1153, Teig, son of Dermoid O'Brien, and Turloch O'Conor, marched an army to Ath-Maine (Mayne) in this district, and met, at *Feer-droma*, the united forces of Murtogh Mac Laughlin O'Neill, king of Tyrone ; Donogh O'Carroll, of Uriel ; Turlogh, son of Dermoid O'Brien ; and the strength of Tyrobbnell, Breifne and Ulster. A desperate engagement ensued, which proved disastrous to the former power : Turlogh O'Brien, in whose quarrel the allies combated, remaining master of the field. The unfortunate Teig was made prisoner, and his eyes were put out by his own brother !—In this battle, which has obtained considerable notoriety in Irish annals, there fell several chieftains, destined, however, to “ live in song.”

The buildings of *Fore* abbey were consumed by fire in 1169 ; and the house was refounded in 1209, by Walter de Lacy ; who, notwithstanding the several grants made by his father to Anglo-Norman followers, still exercised supreme jurisdiction within the palatinate of Meath. The re-foundation was made, under the invo-

* The word *Fore*, or *Fowre*, is derived from the Irish *Fer*, enlightening, or illumination ; and does not signify, as Sir Henry Piers and some other writers assert, “ the town of books.”—Montmorency MSS.

cation of *St. Taurin* and *St. Fechin*, for monks of the order of *St. Benedict*, brought from the abbey of *St. Taurin*, at *Evereux* in *Normandy*; to which abbey the priory of *Fore* now became a cell.*

In the year 1436, a tax was laid, by order of *Henry VI.* on all things brought to market in this town, or in the towns of *Mullingar* and *Multifernam*; and, likewise, on all goods going out of the said towns; for the purpose of raising a sum of money, sufficient to defray the expense of *paving* the town of *Fore*; and of constructing a ditch, or stone-wall, for the security of the English inhabitants against their Irish enemies.

In the year 1448, *William Crosse*, the king's *farmer* of the *lands* belonging to this priory, was appointed, by act of parliament, *Prior* of *St. Fechin's*. The reason given for this extraordinary appointment, is the good conduct of the said farmer in his office, particularly in the circumstance of having erected, at his own cost, many strong castles upon the priory lands.—From the record of this transaction we acquire information concerning the powerful influence of the crown, in regard to the internal regulation of monastic institutions. Nor will it be overlooked by the topographer, that, from the same source, we derive intelligence as to the date and builder of numerous castles in this neighbourhood, now in ruins.

The last prior was *William Nugent*, who surrendered in the thirty-first year of *Henry VIII.* A final grant of the priory and manor of *Fore* was obtained by *Richard*, first Earl of *Westmeath*, in 1612.—The monastic buildings stood on a firm plot of ground, (which they entirely occupied) situated in the centre of a bog. The ruins are extensive, but present no indications of former architectural beauty.

* The actuating motive of *de Lacy* in this instance, was a sentiment of gratitude towards the abbot and monks of *St. Taurin*; who, after himself and his brother *Hugh* were banished by *King John*, received the fugitives, and afforded them the means of support. The brothers were admitted to the abbey of *St. Taurin* in the disguise of gardeners; and, in their assumed capacity, their true rank not being known, they worked for subsistence until the period of their pardon and recall.—*Montmerancy MSS.*

Here is a chapel, rebuilt "for the buryinge-place, and pious use of himselfe and his successors," by Richard, second Earl of Nugent, in 1680. Several members of the noble family of Nugent are here interred. Connected with the same spot was the cell of an anachorite, which appears to have retained a wretched inmate so lately as the date at which Mr. Harris published his edition of the works of Sir James Ware, namely, 1764. A recluse of this order (poor representative of the *hermit* of the poets!) was certainly existing in this cell when Sir Henry Piers wrote his "Description of the County of Westmeath," in the latter part of the seventeenth century. The account afforded by the latter writer is too curious to be entirely omitted, and we accordingly present an extract in the margin.* It may not be superfluous to observe,

* The town of Fore, observes Sir Henry Piers, contains "a church or cell, of an anchorite, the sole of this religious kind" (at the time at which Sir Henry wrote) "in Ireland. This religious person at his entry maketh a vow never to go out of his doors all his life after; and, accordingly, here he remains pent-up all his days. Every day he saith mass in his chapel, which also is part of, nay almost all his dwelling house, for there is no more house, but a very small castle, wherein a tall man can hardly stretch himself at length, if he laid down on the floor; nor is there any passage into the castle but through the chapel. He hath servants that attend him at his call in an out-house, but none lyeth within the church but himself. He is said by the natives, who hold him in great veneration for his sanctity, every day to dig, or rather scrape, for he useth no other tools but his nails, a portion of his grave; being esteemed of so great holiness, as if purity and sanctity were intailed on his cell, he is constantly visited by those of the Romish religion, who aim at being esteemed more devout than the ordinary amongst them. Every visitant at his departure leaveth his offering, or (as they phrase it) devotion on his altar; but he relieth not on this only for a maintenance, but hath those to bring him in their devotions, whose devotions are not so fervent as to invite them to do the office in person. These are called his proctors, who range all the countries in Ireland to beg for him, whom they call the holy man in the stone; corn, eggs, geese, turkies, hens, sheep, money, and what not; nothing comes amiss, and nowhere do they fail all together, but something is had, insomuch that if his proctors deal honestly, nay if they return him but the tenth part of what is given him, he may doubtless fare as well as any priest of them all. The only recreation this poor prisoner is capable of, is to walk on his terras,

that the learned editor of Ware is desirous of attributing to the use of these anachorites, the tall and highly-finished pillar-towers of Ireland; a conjecture more absurd than we have witnessed in the speculations of any antiquary, usually so well entitled to attention as Mr. Harris. The cell of the hermit, in all parts of the christian world, bears nearly the same confined proportions; and is, in all districts, as formerly in Ireland, a low, narrow, and isolated cabin, calculated for the reception of a single person, resigned to seclusion and devotion. For some further remarks on the entire dissimilarity between the *cella* of the ordinary anachorite, and the pillar of the fanatical Stylite of Antioch, we refer to the work by the Chevalier De Montmorency, on the Pillar-towers of Ireland.

The most curious of the three ruined churches of Fore is that dedicated to St. Fechin, which is entered at the west end by a door, three feet in width, and six feet in height. The wall is about three feet thick, and is composed of unhewn stones. The lintel, or head of the door, is one entire stone, nearly of the same thickness as the wall, about six feet in length, and two feet in height. It is hewn, or squared, only on the lower part connected with the entrance. On the outer side is a carving of the cross, placed within a circle. The rude character of the whole of these ruins, evinces a very considerable antiquity. Sir Henry Piers relates a long traditional story, current among the country people, according to the tenour of which, the ponderous stone which acts as a lintel to this door-way, was placed in its present position, without any other aid than the efficacy of St. Fechin's prayers. Fantastical traditions, nearly of a similar character, prevail in the neighbourhood of every old building that displays any peculiar exercise of mechanical powers; and the tale in question was scarcely worth the labour of chronicling, even as an instance of popular credulity.

In the immediate neighbourhood of this town is LOUGH LENZ, built over the cell wherein he lies, if he may be said to walk, who cannot in one line stretch forth his legs four times." Collect. Hibern. vol. i. pp. 63-4.

a small but pleasant lake, dotted with three wooded islands. The name should probably be written *Lough Leana*, the lake in the meadow or morass. Near the banks of this water is a tumulus, or earthen-work, locally called the "Fort of Turgesius." *

KILROOM, an antient seat of a branch of the Nugents, and afterwards of the family of Smyth, is now the estate of the Earl of Longford. A monastery was founded here, at a very early period, by St Nennid. Mr. Archdall styles the place at which the above religious house was founded *Kiltoma*, and adds, that "Kiltoma is now unknown."

PACKENHAM HALL (formerly termed *Tullynally*) the handsome seat of the Earl of Longford, is situated in the northern part of the county, near the small town of *Castle-Pollard*. This estate, with other lands in Westmeath, was granted to the Pakenham family shortly subsequent to the rebellion of 1641. The mansion has been recently much enlarged and improved, under the direction of Mr. Francis Johnston, architect.†

* This celebrated chieftain among the barbarous hordes which invaded Ireland, and obtained a settlement on its coasts, in the ninth century, is said by Giraldus to have constructed many of the *earthen forts* still remaining in Ireland; in making which assertion, however, Giraldus merely echoed the tradition prevailing in Ireland at the time of his visit. The violent death of Turgesius is believed to have taken place within the limits of antient Meath. The spot is not pointed out, but the story of his destruction is thus told.—The barbarian had conceived a passion for the daughter of the King of Meath, who did not dare to refuse the gratification of his wishes. He therefore promised to send the lady, attended by fifteen damsels, at an appointed time, to a "certain island in the province of Meath." Instead of damsels, the king selected fifteen fair but stout young men, habited like females, and each secretly provided with a sword. Turgesius repaired to the island, in full security, with several revelling companions. The issue of the popular tale may be readily imagined. The Norwegians broke the bounds of decorum, and the disguised youthful warriors drew their swords from beneath their female habits, and put to death the enemies of their country.

† It may not prove uninteresting to observe that Pakenham Hall is

Between Castle-Pollard and Finae are the ruins of **CARLANSTOWN**, formerly the mansion of a distinguished branch of the Nugent family. The woods of this demesne were, a few years back, the finest and most venerable of any in Westmeath : bare walls, and naked fields, alone, now meet the eye of the traveller.*

FINAE, a small but neat village, is situated on a stream that unites the lakes Shillen and Ennil, and separates the counties of Westmeath and Cavan. Over the stream is thrown a stone bridge. This village, however humble, is connected with several historical transactions. In the year 1331, Sir Anthony Lucy, lord justice, defeated the Irish in a severe battle near Finae. In July, 1644,

frequently noticed in Miss Edgeworth's Memoirs of her father, as the seat of hospitality, and the resort of refined society. At "hospitable Packenham hall" Mr. Edgeworth passed much time, in the early part of his life, with equal gratification and improvement. In more advanced life, a friendly intercourse also subsisted between the families of Edgeworthstown and the hall. The character of the country, however, prohibited very frequent visits. The two seats are twelve miles distant from each other, and between them, writes Miss E. "was a vast Serbonian bog, with a bad road, an awkward ferry, and a country so frightful, and so overrun with yellow weeds, that it was aptly called by Mrs. Greville 'the yellow dwarf's country'." Edgeworth Mems. vol. ii. p. 11.

* Sir Thomas Nugent, founder of this distinguished line of his family, and the first of the Nugents seated at Carlanstown, was second and youngest son of Richard, seventh baron of Delvin, and brother of Christopher, eighth baron of Delvin, progenitor of the Marquess of Westmeath. Sir Thomas married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of George Fleming of Carlanstown, second son of James Lord Slane, of Slane castle; with which lady he obtained this manor. From this Sir Thomas was descended Robert, created, in 1767, Baron Nugent, of *Carlanstown*, and Viscount Clare; and also created, in 1776, Earl Nugent, with remainder, in default of male issue, to his lordship's son-in-law, George-Grenville-Nugent Temple, late Marquess of Buckingham. Lady Mary-Elizabeth Nugent, married to the Marquess of Buckingham, was created, in 1800, Baroness Nugent, with remainder to her second son, Lord George-Grenville Nugent Temple; who succeeded to the *barony and manor of Carlanstown* on her ladyship's decease, in 1813, and is the present baron.—*Montmorency MSS.*

General Munroe, the Scottish puritan, overthrew, before this village, a detachment of Lord Castlehaven's army. The republican colonels Hewson and Jones, in 1651, routed here the royalist forces, commanded by Pheagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne. During this transaction, the republicans took the village by storm.

LOUGH DERIVARAGH, in this part of the county, is a lake of considerable extent and of distinguished charms. Its winding and devious form produces continual varieties of picturesque beauty. Lofty hills range along its margin, in some places presenting a barrier so steep as to be nearly precipitous, and finely clothed with wood.—On that part of the steepest of these hills which overhangs the water (here fearfully deep) is a place of pilgrimage, elaborately described by Sir Henry Piers, in his work respecting this county, inserted in the Collectanea.

At MULTIFERNAN (Mons Fernandi) seven miles from Mullingar, towards the north, a monastery was founded, in 1236, by William Delamar, lord of Delamar's country,* for Franciscan friars. This religious house attained so much importance, that a provincial chapter of the order was held here in 1529. Although dissolved in the view of the state, and divested of their possessions, the friars were permitted to re-assemble in the buildings of this monastery; and, if we give credit to Cox, had not the temperance and wisdom to remain in the tranquil exercise of local religious duties. It is said by this writer that the rebellion of 1641, was contrived in the monastery of Multifernan. According to Sir Henry Piers, "this place, being conveniently seated almost in the centre of the kingdom, and also of great receipt, in that year (1641) and some years before, great and frequent were the meetings here of the popish clergy, of all kinds, from all

* The late Peter Delamar, Esq. chief of the antient Anglo-Norman family of Delamar, lords of the extensive tract in this county termed *Delamar's country*, which was granted to that family by Sir Hugh de Lacy, resided at *Lackin*, or *Leckin*, in this part of Westmeath. This gentleman dying without issue, his antient family is, we believe, extinct in the male line. The family of Roche succeeded to the Delamar estate.—Montmorency MSS.

parts of the kingdom." Little, however, is to be trusted to the statement of pseudo-historians, writing from party feelings, whilst subject to the factious exasperation that prevailed in the seventeenth century. We may more readily receive as correct, the information of Piers, when he informs us, that "at and before 1641, the church not only remained in good repair, but was adorned with images, pictures, and reliques, whilst the friars had, in their choir and chancel, their organs and choristers." The same writer describes the buildings, which, although "out of repair," were not ruinous in his time, as being "of a frame or fabric, rather neat and compact than sumptuous or towering, having in the midst, between the body of the church and the chancel, an handsome straight, but very narrow steeple." It is said by Archdall that "the building, according to a tradition of the place, was committed to the flames by the Rockforts, a powerful family in this country; but some ruins, which remain, evince its extent and extraordinary workmanship, the whole being built of a blackish stone; the east window, totally devoid of ornament, is still entire."—A convent of Franciscans, humble in character, still exists at this place.

At **LENNY**, distant from Mullingar about six miles, was formerly a castle of the Gaynor family. The church has been lately rebuilt, with the aid of a loan of £350, from the board of first fruits. Here, seated on a healthy eminence, is a charter school, designed for sixty children.

At the distance of one mile and a half from the above village, and finely situated between Lough Ouil and Lough Derivaragh, is *Wilson's Hospital*, founded in the last century, by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, of Shinglasshouse, for the support, according to the first intention, of sixteen old men, and the maintenance and education of the same number of boys, protestant natives of this county. The revenues are ample and the buildings spacious.—Here, on the 6th of September, 1798, a sanguinary engagement occurred, between a detachment of the army of Lord Cornwallis, and a body of insurgents, who took post at the hospital. The building

was destroyed during the conflict, but has since been completely restored.*

The part of Westmeath to which we have now conducted the reader, ranks amongst the most picturesque and attractive districts in this quarter of Ireland. We are here in the region of the

* We are enabled to present, on original authority, some curious particulars relative to the tumultuous congregation of peasantry opposed to the king's troops upon this occasion. The originality of the intelligence, and the clear ideas it conveys of the character and qualifications of the bands which ventured upon open rebellion in this district, must plead our apology for the length of this note.—The body of insurgents which figured on this occasion was composed of ignorant and headstrong men, of the lowest order, who had withdrawn, on the foregoing night, from a considerable assembly of resident farmers and peasantry, which had collected from the adjacent baronies, through the various motives of terror, self-defence, or disloyalty, on the hill of Skey, near Moyvore, in the barony of Rathconrath. The greater number of those assembled at the hill were armed with pitchforks, spades, and cudgels. Some appeared with pikes, and others (but not many) carried guns and pistols. Thus equipped for war, these deluded people abandoned their homes and families, and flocked joyously to the place of rendezvous, as if to a fair. Parties of the most efficient among their numbers were dispatched, to arrest and conduct to the main body, such of the resident gentry and respectable inhabitants as they could lay their hands upon. Among the persons thus arrested, was a gentleman belonging to a distant county, formerly an officer in a foreign service, who was at that time on a visit to a relative in the neighbourhood. This gentleman they conducted to what they termed their camp; namely, the bleak summit of the hill of Skey, where was neither tent nor shed, nor enclosure of any kind. A pitiable apathy, or stupid insensibility of danger, appeared to prevail; mixed with a restless, anxious, curiosity. A thirst of news; hope; suspicion; expectation; agitated the minds, and visibly influenced the manners and motions, of the multitude. The name and rank of the gentleman in question caused a great sensation in the throng; and his compulsory arrival was greeted with a shout of welcome, from end to end of the massy but irregular line. When silence was obtained, he summoned around him the principal of their insignificant leaders, reasoned with them on the impracticable character of their schemes, and forcibly exhibited to them, on the credit of his military experience, the certainty of destruction that hung over their heads, if they persisted in resistance. Fortunately the address of — was received with conviction by the majority of his auditors. They prepared to disperse,

lakes ; and those lovely waters unite their charms with hills varying between the bold and the soft ; fields richly verdurous ; numerous splendid seats ; far-spread plantations ; and ruins of ecclesiastical and castellated edifices.

LOUGH IRON, although inferior in extent and attraction to other inland waters of this county, claims priority of notice, on account of local circumstances. This lough may be termed an expansion of the river Inny, and is said by Sir Henry Piers to be " a full mile in length, but in breadth not half so much." The same writer notices a tradition " that, of old, here was no lake at all ; but wood, meadow, and woody pastures, the low grounds being watered by a small rivulet." In support of such an opinion, he observes that the water is here not so deep as in most lakes of Westmeath, " for it is no where above sixteen feet in depth, whereas the shallowest of our other lakes are so many fathom, and more. Again, towards the banks, or margin of it (strand it hath none, except where the Inny falleth into it, and near it) are seen, under water, trunks, and stumps, of trees." Sir Henry adds, that " he has, himself, found, and taken up, in shallow water, near the banks, stags' horns, much decayed and rotten."

On the western banks of this lough stood, formerly, the *Abbey of Tristernagh*, founded by Geoffrey de Coutance, or Constantia, either in the reign of Henry II., or at a date very briefly subsequent.—Sir Henry Piers, to whose chorographical account of Westmeath we have just adverted, was lord of the manor, and proprietor of the remains of Tristernagh Abbey. In that work he presents a description of the church, which was cruciform ; and, " although it had remained without roof time out of mind," was still " firm and substantial." We regret to say that a

whilst he clapped spurs to his horse, and quickly disappeared. The most unruly of the insurgents, a small part only of the assembly, pursued their dangerous course, in contempt of this good advice, and directed their march to *Wilson's Hospital*, where they were attacked by the king's troops on the following day, and mostly cut to pieces.

descendant and representative of the antiquarian and worthy baronet, namely, Sir Pigott William Piers, caused this venerable pile to be utterly demolished, in the year 1783.* A stable and cow-house now occupy its site !

The adjacent house and demesne of Tristernagh have been, for several ages, the residence of the baronet family of Piers ; but are more indebted to beauty of situation than to the hand of art, for any charms they may possess in the esteem of the traveller. This family entered Ireland in the person of Captain William Piers, an officer in Queen Elizabeth's army ; who is noted in history as the officer to whom the famous Shane O'Neill was betrayed, and delivered up, by his Scotch auxiliary forces. It will be recollected that O'Neill was decapitated ; and Piers sent the head of the chieftain to London, for which ungracious, but important, service, he was rewarded by Elizabeth with large grants of land, including the estate of Tristernagh, which still remain the property of his descendants. Sir Henry Piers, son of Captain William Piers, and grandfather of the historian of Westmeath, was a man of letters, and author of a book of travels. James, son of Sir Henry, embraced the Roman Catholic religion, and became D. D. in that church. He was royal professor of the Aquitanic college at Bordeaux, and published several literary works. Sir Henry Piers, Bart. the member of this family in which the topographer is most interested, wrote, in 1692-3, a " Chorographical Description of the County of Westmeath," which is printed in the first volume of the *Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*.† Sir John Piers, the present baronet, has resided for some time in the *Isle of Man*.

* This tasteless and unfeeling representative of a topographical writer, who was anxious to preserve every vestige calculated to adorn his country, or to illustrate its history, was earnestly solicited by his neighbours to abstain from so wanton an outrage. We are assured that Lord Sunderlin offered to purchase the ruins, at a high price, solely with a view to their preservation ; but in vain. The name of Tristernagh should never be mentioned, without an expression of contempt (as regards this transaction) towards that of *Sir Pigott William Piers*.

† The work of Sir Henry Piers is respectable, as being an early at-

Near the entrance to the demesne of Tristernagh, stands the *Chapel of Templecross*, now in ruins. This building, in the time of the historian of Westmeath, was in good repair, and divine service was then performed within its walls. In this chapel is the sepulchral vault of the Piers family. An altar monument, bearing the family arms, commemorates the first Sir Henry Piers, noticed in the preceding page as author of a book of travels.

BARONSTOWN, on the banks of Lough-Iron, is the splendid seat of Richard Malone, Esq. inherited by this gentleman from his relative, the late Right Hon. Richard Malone, Lord Sunderlin, who died without issue. The name of this place is derived from its antient proprietors, the family of Nangle, *Palatine-barons* of Navan. The estate was purchased of that family by Richard Malone, Esq. father of the celebrated forensic orator, Anthony Malone, and of Edmond, the father of Lord Sunderlin.—Baronstown house is a capacious edifice of stone, chiefly built by the late Lord Sunderlin, under whose tasteful direction the demesne was enlarged, and enriched with extensive plantations.

At KILBIXY, on the Baronstown estate, and in view of Mr. Malone's mansion, is a small but beautiful church, erected under the auspices of the late Lord Sunderlin. This structure is a very estimable example of the successful imitation, in modern times, of the florid style of pointed architecture; and will, we trust, remain, to a very late posterity, a proof of the exquisite taste and munificence of its noble founder.—Kilbixy (locally pronounced

tempt to delineate some part of a country, too backward in a taste for topographical inquiry. Viewed as a production entirely dependant on its intrinsic merits, its chief value will, probably, be found to consist in chorographical outline, and in the account it preserves of certain peculiarities of manners, prevailing in the time of the writer. Sir Henry was far from being a well informed historian, or a sound antiquary. He was a rigid protestant; but, while he holds up to derision the credulity of vulgar classes of Romanists, he believes, and gravely repeats, the most fantastical tales, not marked with a popular superstition against which he was habitually guarded.

Kilbickly) formerly contained a castle, and an hospital for lepers ; of which last building some remains are still visible. These structures were erected by Sir Hugh de Lacy, about the year 1192. Here Sir Geoffrey de Contance, who was a follower of de Lacy, held his baronial court. Sir Geoffrey granted borough privileges to the adjacent town, of which privileged place not a trace remains at the present day !

LOUGH HOIL, or OUIL, is a lovely sheet of water, more than three miles in length, and about one mile in width. Its bosom is diversified by five small islands, well planted with trees and shrubs. From this lake issue two rivers, formerly known, as it would appear from Sir H. Piers, by the names of the golden and silver hands. Lough Hoil now acts as a *reservoir* to the Royal Canal. In the contiguity of this lake are several handsome mansions, among which we notice the following.

PORTLEMON, the seat of Lord de Blaquiere. This estate formerly belonged to a branch of the Nugent family, and was purchased by the father of the present peer, Sir John Blaquiere, K. B. who was advanced to the peerage at the time of the Union. The house of Portlemon was erected by that nobleman. This mansion is well placed, and the demesne is finely planted.

LEVINGTON PARK, otherwise *Farnarustick*, a seat of the *Levinge* family, situated on rising ground in this delightful tract of country, at the distance of two miles from Mullingar.

SONNA, or SONNACH, which in the Irish language implies a *castle of stone*, is situated in this neighbourhood, on the borders of a small but charming lake. This place has constituted the seat of the *Tuite*, or *De Tuyte*, family, for more than six hundred years. Sir Hugh de Lacy, lord of Meath, granted the manor of *de Sonnagh*, with other estates, to Richard de Tuyte, one of his principal followers, about the year 1180 ; and it must be noticed, as a rare circumstance of good fortune, in this country of political troubles, that the manor has ever since remained vested in the

descendants of the said Richard, without any interruption whatever. In a more extensive work, it might not prove uninteresting to trace the annals of a family, thus riding securely, amidst all the "storms of state," for so many centuries. Sir Oliver Tuite, "of the Sonagh," was created a baronet in 1622, and was progenitor of the present baronet, Sir George; and, likewise, of Hugh Morgan Tuite, *of Sonna*, Esq. who served the office of high sheriff of Westmeath, in the year 1822.—The present mansion of this antient family is a light and elegant building, which has succeeded to "the castle of stone," and is surrounded by a well-planted demesne.*

LOUGH ENNEL, the most southward of the Westmeath lakes, is, also, one of the most extensive and beautiful of those fine sheets of water. Its eastern margin is enriched by several mansions, and spacious, diversified, and well-wooded demesnes.

The attractive seat termed BELVEDERE, lately gave the title of earl, in the peerage of Ireland, to the Rochfort family. The earldom became extinguished in the person of the late peer, who died a short time back, without issue. This seat is now the property of his lordship's sister, the Countess of Lanesborough. Mr. Young describes this place in the following animated terms. "The house is perched on the crown of a very beautiful little hill, half surrounded with others, variegated and melting into one another. It is one of the most singular places any where to be seen, and spreading to the eye a beautiful lawn of undulating ground, margined with wood. Lake Ennel flows beneath the windows. It is spotted with islets; a promontory of rock, fringed with trees, shoots into it, and the whole is bounded by distant hills." We are sorry to observe that the artificial ruins of a castle (which incumber the earth, as the too-durable memorial of a former family dissension) purposely obstruct the reciprocal advantages of view, between this and the contiguous demesne of Rochfort house.

* For many particulars relating to the Tuite family, see *Baronetage of Ireland*; and *Archdall's Peerage*, vol. iii. p. 25, *note*.

ROCHFORD HOUSE, one of the finest mansions in this district, was the seat of the late Gustavus-Hume Rochfort, Esq. a representative in the imperial parliament for the county of Westmeath. The grounds are well-wooded, and extremely beautiful.

GAULSTOWN PARK, to the east of Lough-Ennel, is the seat and residence of James-Caulfeild Browne, *Lord Kilmain of the Neale*. His lordship is of the antient family of "Browne of the Neale," in the county of Mayo. Sir John Browne of the Neale, father of the present baron, was raised to the peerage in 1789, and purchased this estate from the late Earl of Belvedere. The existing mansion was built by the first Lord Kilmain, upon the site of an antient structure belonging to the chief baron Rochfort, which is noticed by Dean Swift.

Near the above seat is the village of **KILBRIDE**, called the *Pass of Kilbride*. Here stood a castle of the Tyrrels, which, in 1651, after an obstinate resistance on the part of the proprietor, Walter Tyrrel, Esq. a zealous royalist, was surrendered to the parliament forces under Colonel Hinson. In the neighbourhood are seen some church ruins, and a moat, or dan.

In the village of **EMRON**, or **IMPER**, is a castle, of small dimensions, which commands fine views of the windings of the river Lany, and over a wide extent of the counties of Westmeath and Longford. This castle was built by the Daltens, but passed, many ages back, into the possession of the Tuile family, of Sonnagh, who are the present owners.

MEARSCOURT, once called *Rolandstown*, was formerly, together with many neighbouring manors, included in *Dalton's country*. The family of D'Alton had here a castle; but that family forfeiting their possessions in 1641, this manor was granted by Cromwell to Lieutenant Lewis Meares, one of his English officers. The present mansion of Mearscourt was erected, on the site of the old castle of Rolandstown, by the late John Meares, Esq. under

whose direction the grounds were laid out, with very superior taste and judgment. On this estate is situated the *Hill of Skay*, or *Shagá*, noticed in a preceding page as the place of rendezvous for a body of insurgents, on the 6th of September, 1798.

RATHOONRATH, a mean village, distant five miles from Mullingar, imparts its name to a very extensive barony.* This place, at different periods, gave the title of baron-palatine to the families of D'Alton and Owen. Of this latter race of barons the male line became extinct, towards the close of Queen Elizabeth's reign, in the person of Sir Richard Owen, uterine brother of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone; a person amply noticed by the author of *Poems on Manners*. The ancient church, which is in ruins, contains a sepulchral vault of the D'Altons. A new church has been lately completed, with the aid of a sum of money from the board of first fruits. In this neighbourhood are numerous tumuli, or earthen elevations, usually described under the names of raths or mounds. These form a connected line, or chain; and one, which has been explored, contains several rooms or recesses.

At a distance of half a mile from the above village, situated on an acclivity, near the Lake of Loughan, is *Mount Alton*, the seat of the D'Alton family, counts of the Holy Roman Empire, built, about the year 1790, by Count Richard D'Alton, a distinguished officer in the Austrian service. By the same gentleman, and his brother, General James D'Alton, was erected here a pyramidal monument, fifty feet in height, in honour of the Empress Marie Theresæ, the Emperor Joseph II. and his late majesty, King George III. This monument is adorned on three sides with the profiles, in white marble, of the above-named sovereigns; the fourth side is charged with the D'Alton arms, and a suitable inscription.—Count Oliver D'Alton, the last male heir of this ancient family, dying without issue, the family estates gavelled between his three sisters.

* In this barony is situated the *Hill of Ulenack*, or *Usenack*, celebrated as a place of druidical ceremonies; and as the scene of various synods and public assemblies.

BALYNACOR is the ancient seat of a branch of the Nugent family. Edward Nugent, of Balynacor, Esq. was created a count of the Holy Roman Empire, with licence of King George III. Count Edward Nugent, grandson of that gentleman, is the present proprietor of this estate.

LISSEY, a village near the town of Ballymahon, is situated in a picturesque tract of country. This place demands the notice of the topographer, from the circumstance of its having formerly afforded a residence to the Rev. Henry Goldsmith, brother of the poet, to whom was dedicated, by that pleasing writer, the poem of the "Traveller." Here, duly sensible, as we will hope, of "the wisdom of his humble choice," the "village preacher ran his godly race." It has been supposed that many of the objects furnishing poetical allusions in the "Deserted Village," are still to be discovered in Lissey and its vicinity. The Rev. Henry Goldsmith performed the duties of curate in the neighbouring church of Kilkenny-west. Some farther particulars concerning the poet Goldsmith, and this interesting neighbourhood, are presented in our account of *Pallice, county of Longford*.

KILKENNY-WEST, distant about one mile from Lissey, is a small *Fair* town, bearing marks of some importance in remote ages. This place gives name to a barony; and an abbey was founded here, at a very early period. On the decay of that institution, a priory, or hospital, for Crouched-Friars, was erected by the family of Dillon, in the thirteenth century. Kilkenny-west gives the title of baron, in the Irish peerage, to Dillon, Earl of Roscommon. An obelisk, fifty feet in height, was erected here, some years back, by Mr. Lowe, of Lowville. This structure occupies a commanding situation, and we regret that its erection was not designed to commemorate the poet who has rendered its neighbourhood classic ground.

LOUGH-REE, on the north-eastern border of this county, is a noble spread of water, formed by an expansion of the river Shannon. This fine lough is, in its widest part, nine miles in breadth,

and is adorned with several well-wooded islands. Among the largest of these is *Hare Island*, the property of Lord Castlemaine, which contains more than 100 acres of good land. An abbey was founded on this island by the Dillon family, of which building some ruins still remain; and the precincts form a place of burial for the Anglo-Norman sept of Dillon, extremely numerous in the adjoining district, which was formerly called *Dillon's Country*.*

On another island of Lough-ree, termed *Saint's Island*, or *Nuns' Island*, a convent of nuns, of the order of St. Clare, called of *Bethlem*, was founded, at an unknown date, of which the walls still remain. This nunnery flourished until the year 1641, at which time a party of British soldiers, under the command of Captain Bertie, brother to the Earl of Lindsay, in garrison at *Balynacloffy* castle, near Lough-ree, made an irruption into the island, and, after committing outrages on the nuns, destroyed the conventual buildings by fire. Returning to *Balynacloffy*, this licentious band completed the exploits of the day, by drinking to an excess that rendered them incapable of efforts at self-preservation; in which state they were attacked by an avenging party, under the conduct of one of the Dillon family, and (as we will venture to anticipate) much to the satisfaction of the reader, were nearly all cut to pieces. Two persons alone escaped, to confess the outrage, and to narrate its just punishment.

MOIDRUM HOUSE, or CASTLE, the seat of Lord Castlemaine, is situated near the border of Lough-ree, at the distance of about

* The reader may here be reminded that formerly in Ireland, as in Scotland, all the followers of a chieftain, although not in the most distant degree related to him in blood, assumed his family name. Hence, the numerous Fitzgeralds, Butlers, &c. It may afford a curious illustration of the former state of morals and manners in Ireland, to observe that we find, in this district, a tract of land called *Clochar-andeish*, the wretched, or sinful, tribe or congregation; to which place the heads of the Dillon family sent their illegitimate offspring, who were distinguished by the appellation of *Stiochd-clochar-andeish-aindear*; literally meaning the unlawful progeny of the unmarried women, or *marriageable* women. Many of the descendants of these unfortunate outcasts are in existence, and well known in the neighbourhood.

two miles from the town of Athlone. The antient house on this demesne had no pretensions to architectural beauty, and was not, in any respect, calculated for the residence of a distinguished family. The present mansion has been lately completed, after the designs of Mr. Morrison, in the style denominated "modern Gothic." The demesne is extremely beautiful, abounding with inequalities of surface, and richly adorned with wood and water. The noble proprietor chiefly resides on this estate; and schools, for the gratuitous education of peasant-children, have been humanely instituted in the neighbourhood by Lady Castlemaine.

BALYMORE is a market and fair town, near the northern borders of the county. This is a long, but irregular and ill-built town, chiefly noted, in a trading point of view, for its horse and cattle fairs. The parish church has been lately repaired and enlarged. In the church-yard is a decayed chapel, forming the antient place of sepulture for the Magan family, of Emoe and Togher's town, in this county. By that family the church-yard has been surrounded with a stone wall, and with a double, and very ornamental, line of elm trees, at present of considerable bulk and height.

Ballymore, with a vast adjoining territory, after the settlement of the Anglo-Normans, fell to the share of Sir Theobald de Verdun, in right of his wife, Margaret, eldest daughter of Walter de Lacy, lord of Meath. The male line of Sir Theobald's progeny failing, his estates in this county devolved to the husbands of his daughters, who were Englishmen, and resided in their native island. In consequence of the absence of these proprietors, writes Finglass, their lands in Ireland were usurped by the Anglo-Norman and "Milesian" septs of D'Alton, Dillon, O'Melaghlin, and Mac Geoghegan. In the year 1600, the town and manor of Ballymore belonged to Sir Francis Shaen, who sometimes made this place his residence. By virtue of Lord Strafford's commission for remedy of defective titles, a grant of the castle, manor, and lake of *Ballymore-lough-suidy*, was obtained, in 1636, by Nicholas, first Viscount Netterville. The present Viscount Netterville is now the principal proprietor.

This town was garrisoned by the royalists, under Sir James

Billon, in 1643; but, on the approach of the parliament army, Sir James burnt the town, and fled. Balymore was fortified anew for James II. and made a stout resistance, on experiencing a siege from General de Ginkle; but the garrison at length surrendered at discretion, June the 8th, 1691. On the conclusion of a peace, which took place soon after this event, the fortifications were demolished.

Contiguous to the town of Balymore is the small but beautiful *Lake of Loughsuidy*, or Lough Sunderlin, from which the Malone family derived the title of baron, in the Irish peerage. At the foot of the hill of *Clare*, or *Mullaghcloe*, may still be seen the ruins of a Gilbertine Abbey, founded in 1218, on the site of a monastery, which stood here before the year 700. On the summit of the hill are the ruins of *Clare Castle*. In 1691, the British and Dutch army, under Generals de Ginkle and Douglas, encamped on this hill, while preparing for the siege of Balymore.

Towards the middle of the last century, some labouring men, while ploughing at *CARNE*, then the estate of Keedah Geoghagan, Esq. turned up a flag stone, about four feet long and three broad. On examining the aperture, it was found to contain the bones of a human body, "of gigantic dimensions." The bottom, sides and ends, were composed each of a single slab of stone. Of this, and several other antient tombs discovered in the immediate neighbourhood of the above place, an account was afterwards published by Dr. Richard Pococke, Bishop of Meath, from which we extract the following particulars.

"There was something singularly curious in the attire, or ornament, of the head; for it was covered with an integument of clay, as with a cap; the border whereof, neatly wrought like point, or Brussels lace, extended half way down the forehead. Upon handling, it mouldered into dust, so that no drawing was made of it. Entombed with the bones was an urn of yellow clay. Its contents, if there were any, are not mentioned; it is probable, therefore, there were none; for the inside of the grave is expressly said to have been free from dirt or dust; and the urn, upon handling, fell to pieces.

"Beside the urn lay a ring, of no inconsiderable value, nor

insolent form; considering the high antiquity some are desirous to assign it. It consists of twenty-five table diamonds, regularly and well disposed, set in gold. The bones were all white, as if blanched, but there was no sign of fire having passed upon them.

"This discovery leading to a further search, five other graves, of a similar construction, but of smaller dimensions, having only human bones in them, were also found. These were disposed in a regular form, so as nearly to environ the larger sepulchre; two being placed on each side, and one at the feet. It happened also, within a short time after, that five other graves, of the smaller sort, were discovered within half a mile of this place, upon the lands of Adamstown; but these, like the former, contained only human bones."*

KILLAIR, now a small village, is supposed by Camden to be the *Laberus* of Ptolemy. Mr. Harris, on the other hand, believes either Kells or Taragh to have been the ancient *Laberus*, and deduces the etymology of the word Killair from *KW*, a church, and *Lair*, the navel or middle; this place having been supposed by some topographers to stand in the exact central point of the island.—In the MSS. communicated to this work by the Chev. De Montmorency, it is observed that as the place in question is situated near the celebrated *Hill of Usnach*, on which were formerly held provincial assemblies, not less frequently than at Taragh, we may rationally believe that, in the days of Ptolemy, and down to a much later date, the town now called Killair was the resort, not only of strangers and merchants, but was also the rendezvous of the Irish nobility, during the general meeting of the states at Usnach. Admitting the correctness of this opinion, the Chevalier suggests that the true etymology of the word Killair may be found in the Irish *KW*, a church or parish, and *Lathar* (pronounced *Lair*) a place of meeting.

A monastery, dedicated to St. Aid and St. Brigid, appears to have been founded at Killair, in the sixth century. In the year 1181, Sir Hugh De Lacy erected a strong castle at this

* *Archæologia*, vol. ii, p. 32.

place, which, in after-ages, was possessed by the Mac Geoghagans, dynasts of Moycashell. The Shaen family succeeded in the possession of this fortress, which remained in that family until the recent extinction of the male line.

At DRUMRANY, about six miles from Athlone, towards the north east, is the seat of Mr. Lennon.—Drumrany may be termed the cradle of the Dillons, as, from the parent-stock at this place, are sprung the numerous branches of that distinguished Anglo-Norman family. Sir Henry De Lion, secretary to John, Earl of Morton, afterwards King of England, obtained, about the year 1185, a large grant of lands in this quarter, being part of the antient domain of the powerful septs of O'Melaghlin, Mac Geoghagan, and others; to which newly-acquired territory Sir Henry gave the name of *Dillon's Country*, by which appellation it was long known. Sir Henry held his lands *in capite*, by the service of sixty knight's fees; a circumstance amply illustrative of the extent and importance of the grant with which he was favoured. He built the castle of Drimrath, or *Drumrany*, in which his posterity flourished for many ages. Sir Henry De Lion, otherwise *Dillon*, died in the year 1244. From Sir Thomas Dillon, styled Baron of Drumrany, by Lady Mand, his wife, daughter of Edmond le Botiller, Earl of Carrick, are descended the families of Dillon now existing in Ireland and England.

The castles of *Killaney* and *Ardnagrath*, both of which are in this neighbourhood, and now in ruins, were built by the Dillons. The handsome demesne attached to the latter structure has been, since its forfeiture by the Dillons, successively the property and residence of the families of Burtles and Hatfield. From Henry, second son of Sir Lucas Dillon, and brother to James, first Earl of Roscommon, who resided here in the reign of Elizabeth, sprung the family of Dillon, seated at Kentstown, in Meath.

WATERSTOWN, or *Walterstown*, the seat of the Handcock-Temple family, is one of the finest demesnes in Westmeath. The mansion is of ample proportions, and the estate richly ornamented

with a luxuriance of wood and water.* Here stood, formerly, a castle, founded by John, fourth son of Sir Robert, and brother of Sir Lucas Dillon, before-mentioned.

MOSSTOWN, distant two miles from Balymore, is the handsome seat of Theobald Fetherston-haugh, Esq. senior representative of that family.

BALYNTOBBER, near the above demesne, is the seat of Cuthbert Fetherston, Esq. A Dominican Friary (often called the Friary of Tobber) was founded here, in the year 1488, with the permission of Pope Innocent VIII.

EMOE, the seat of Francis Magan, Esq. chief of his antient family, is distant from Balymore about two miles and a half. The sept of Mac Cean, or Mac Gean, latterly written Mac Gan and Magan, is a collateral branch of the house of Mac Dermott. Six successive generations of the Magan family have resided at Emoe. The house is an antient mansion, approached through a long avenue of trees. In this neighbourhood are many vestiges of very remote antiquity, consisting of supposed druidical remains; artificial caves; and numerous earthen elevations, locally termed raths, duns, or moats.

At the distance of one mile from Emoe is ROSEMOUNT, a well-improved demesne. The mansion was built by the late Owen Geoghegan, Esq. whose only daughter and heir married the late Sir Richard Nagle, of Jamestown, father of the present baronet.

SHUROCK, distant one mile and a half from the town of *Meat*,

* A poem was written about thirty years back, by the late George Hynde, M. D. descriptive of the beauties of this fine demesne. It may be observed that the two branches of Handcock of Wiffbrooke, Baron of Castlemaine, and Handcock-Temple of Waterstown, derive from one stock; the former from Thomas the eldest son, the latter from Stephen, Dean of Clonmacnoise, fourth and youngest son of William Handcock, of Twyford, knight of the shire for the county of Westmeath, in the first parliament after the restoration of Charles II. This family (which derives from the Handcocks of Bolton, in Lancashire) is of long standing in Ireland, as may be seen in the civic registries of Dublin.

is a fine seat of the baronet family of Homan. *Dunigan*, or *Dunlygan*, contiguous to Sherrock, is likewise the estate of this very respectable family. Here stood a castle of the Magawlya, formerly chieftains of Colry.

At CASTLE-LOST, distant from Kinnegad seven miles, we find the ruins of a castle, of a mansion-house, and a church. The castle still exhibits traces of strong outworks, and was protected by a moat. This castle, and the adjoining mansion, long afforded a residence to the Tyrrel family. The antient and ruined church contains numerous disregarded and mutilated monuments of this family, amongst which is conspicuous an altar-tomb, bearing the representation, in *alto relievo*, of a knight, in complete armour. This monument has suffered so much from the neglect or contumely of successive ages, that the name it was intended to commemorate cannot now be ascertained. From the embellishments it would appear to be of the sixteenth century, and was, probably, erected for Sir John Tyrrel, of Castle-Lost, father of James of the same place, whose son, Gerald, or Garret, Tyrrel, of Castle-Lost, Esq. died April 6th, 1637, and was here interred. The Castle-Lost estates were forfeited by the Tyrrel family, in the troubles of the seventeenth century.

The small town of KILBEGGAN is seated on the river Brosna, which rises in Lough Foyle, and constitutes, for some distance, the line of division between Westmeath and King's County. The name of this place is usually said to be derived from St. Becan, who is thought to have founded an abbey here, in the days of St. Colomb-cill. A more probable etymology is, however, suggested by the Chevalier de Montmorency; namely, *Kil-beg-ann*, the church on the small stream.

On the site, as is supposed, of the religious house founded by St. Becan, a monastery for Cistercian monks was erected, in the year 1200, by the Anglo-Norman chieftain D'Alton, Lord of Dungerman. Some unimportant remains of this building are still to be seen. The abbey lands were in the possession of Oliver

Lord Lambert, Baron of Cavan, at the time of that nobleman's decease, in the year 1618. Ford Lambert, fifth Earl of Cavan, having no male issue, Lady Gertrude, his lordship's daughter and heir, inherited the Kilbeggan and Emee-beg estates, the peerage passing to the next collateral male heir. Her ladyship subsequently married Michael Coomis, Esq. (since advanced to the baronetage) in whom the above estates are now vested. The town and manor of Kilbeggan, with the exception of the abbey lands, belong to the Belvedere family.—In the month of June, 1798, a body of insurgents was defeated close to this town, after a sharp engagement, by Colonel Blake and his regiment of Northumberland militia. Macmanus, the rebel leader, was taken prisoner and hung.

The neighbourhood of Kilbeggan exhibits numerous remains of ancient castles, formerly belonging to the Mac Geoghegans, dynasty of Moyrashell, and to the subordinate septarchs the O'Maellbreann, and O'Cuiffys or O'Coiffys.

ARDNORCHER, or ARDNURCHER, also called *Horse-Jump*, distant about three miles from Kilbeggan, requires notice on account of the remains of an ancient castle, founded by Hugh de Lacy. According to some authors, the Lord palatine de Lacy met his death whilst superintending the castellated buildings at this place. "The said Sir Hugh," writes Riens, (but confessedly founding his account on tradition) "was here unworthily slain by a mere villain, a common labourer and a native. As he was stepping down to give some directions to the workmen, the villain, taking advantage of his posture, knocked out his brains with his mattock or spade. This gentleman is said of stature and limbs to have been but low and small, and hence, by nick-name, to have been called *Baite*."

The remains of the building erected by order of De Lacy are now few, and entirely ruinous. The castle was founded, with very accurate judgment, on one of the elevations termed moats. The site of the structure, and its decaying relics, are described, by a careful examiner, in words to the following effect.—Pro-

bably de Lacy found this, like other of the curious ancient mounds, an high truncated cone, though not quite circular or insulated, as it is part of a long and narrow ridge. It is surrounded with a trench and an outer mound of earth, having very rude caves down through its centre, which were open lately.—On the western part of the high mount are the remains of a small and round tower, built of lime and stone. A stone wall, whose fragments are still visible, surrounded the remainder of the platform of this high mount. The next lower area, on the south-east side, was defended by a sweeping wall, in which was the great gate of entrance, accessible only by a draw-bridge over a deep fosse, supported by two piers of stone-work, one communicating with the gate of the fort, and the other joined to the high land on the south side of the fosse. All the walls that surrounded the upper works are now disparted, and scattered in large fragments over the lower area. Traces of their foundation, however, are visible. The principal stone work that has escaped the ravages of time and war, is found in the two piers of the drawbridge and lower gate, vulgarly called the Horse-leap.*

BRACCA CASTLE, otherwise COOLELOUGH, is the handsome modern seat of the Hardy family. Contiguous are castle ruins.

CASTLETON-GEOGHEGAN is a small and poor town. This antient manor was for many ages the property of the Mac Geoghegans, and constituted a principal seat of that family, which is a branch of the house of O'Neill, Princes of Tyrone and Ulster. The estate was sold to the late Lord Sunderlin by Ignatius Geoghegan, of London, Esq. The church is a pleasing building, erected under the auspices of the late Dr. O'Beirne, bishop of Meath. Not far distant from that structure are the ruins of the family mansion of Mac Geoghegan, and of an antient church or

* Abridged from the Transactions of the R. I. Academy, vol. ii. p. 46 et seq.—The name of *Horseleap*, by which this place is generally known in the neighbourhood, is derived from a futile tradition of Sir Hugh de Lacy having leaped his horse over the space between the piers of the draw-bridge.

monastic building. In the cemetery are several monuments to members of the families of Geoghegan; Bonyngé; Wyer; and Shale.

In this part of the county are to be seen numerous earth-works and vestiges of Pagan antiquity, highly worthy of investigation, and of descriptive notice, in a work of a more extended character.

JAMMETOWN-HOUSE, the seat of Sir Richard Nagle, Bart. situated in the ancient territory of Mac Geoghegan, is a spacious and handsome mansion, partly built by Kedagh Geoghegan, Esq. maternal grandfather of the late Sir Richard Nagle, but enlarged with wings by the latter gentleman, who was father of the present proprietor. At this seat is preserved an interesting collection of portraits, many of which are heir-looms in the family. The following are entitled to particular notice.

The *Countess of Richmond*, mother to King Henry VII. date 1505. Her ladyship is represented in a black dress, and in an attitude expressive of grief; her hands clasped, and reposing mournfully on her knees.

Queen Anne Boleyn, in a yellow bodice: rings on her thumbs and fingers.

Hugh O'Neill, the last and turbulent Earl of Tyrone. In this fine half-length the earl is portrayed as a man of a martial aspect: the features strong; the complexion dark; the beard and whiskers bushy. He wears a rich suit of armour, studded with gold. The left hand and arm are placed *a-kimbo*, and rest on his hip. In the right hand he bears a truncheon, pointed downwards. The thumb of the same hand is ornamented with a ring. The whole expression of this portrait indicates the impetuous and unruly character of the far-famed O'Neill, the Irish scourge of Elizabeth's government.

A head of the memorable old *Countess of Desmond*.

Barbara, Duchess of Cleveland. A small half length by Sir Peter Lely.

Sir Richard Nagle, of Monaniny, attorney general to King James II. whom he accompanied into exile.

The *Hon. Anne Hamilton*, eldest daughter to George, fourth

Viscount Strabane. This lady married John Browne, of the Neale, county of Mayo, Esq. an ancestor of Sir Richard Nagle. In this excellent portrait of a lovely female, Mrs. Browne is represented in a white court dress. A golden necklace, studded with precious gems, is placed (a superfluous ornament!) on the beautiful neck. A ruff covers the back of the head and shoulders, and on the left arm is a blue scarf. It will be recollected that scarves of this description were worn by the ladies of the court, at the date of the picture under notice (1662) in honour of the Infanta Catharine of Portugal, afterwards Queen of Charles II. the princess having chosen that costume as the mark by which the king might recognise her, when their first meeting should take place.

The *Hon. Mary Hamilton*, sister of the lady mentioned above, and wife of Gerald Dillon, Esq. of the house of Portlick, recorder of Dublin, and prime serjeant to James II, whom he followed into France.

Several vestiges of Irish antiquity are likewise repositied in this mansion. We present an account of the most remarkable of these, nearly in the words of a MS. communication of the Chev. de Montmorency, from which we have greatly profited in our account of this district.

The Jamestown-house is preserved a curious relic, which exhibits the unquestionable marks of a remote antiquity. This is called the *Baculum*, or *crozier*, of *St. Columb-Cill*, the patron of Mac Geoghiegan's territory. It is composed of oak, overlaid with plates of copper, rudely nailed and fastened. About four feet of the shaft, which formerly was longer, still remain; the rest has been broken off and lost. The volute, or top, of the crozier is, in like manner, separated from the shaft, and a part of it is no longer in existence. This volute is of bronze, inlaid with gold and silver lines, representing various figures. It is also set with precious stones and gems; and covers, like the plates of the shaft, a piece of oak. Doubtless, this sacred antique had been committed to the safe-keeping of the Dynast of Moycashell, by the monks of Kilbeggan, (who held in peculiar veneration the sainted Colomb-Cill,) at the period of the reformation, and dissolution of religious houses.

Besides a bronze *celt*, and other rude instruments of very early times, Sir Richard Nagle possesses a curious and formidable weapon, used by the antient Irish in close combat, which is perhaps of an unique description. It is likewise of bronze, and has somewhat the shape of an axe, without a handle. It was designed to be wielded with the hand alone, no socket or spike appearing by which a handle could be attached to the blade. This weapon is eight and a half inches long, where it is grasped with the hand; four and a half inches broad on one side, and two and a half in the opposite direction: both sides, or edges, being equally sharp. In close fight the execution this deadly instrument is calculated to effect, may easily be conceived: It is ornamented with rudely engraved figures.

In the country bordering on Jamestown-house is seen, among several vestiges of the ages usually called Druidical, the place of inauguration for the antient dynasts of Moycashell, locally termed *Muc Geoghegan's Chair*.

END OF THE COUNTY OF WESTMEATH.

COUNTY OF LONGFORD.

THIS small county is situated near the centre of the island, and is separated on the west from Roscommon, in the province of Connaught, by the river Shannon. On the north-west lies Leitrim, and on the north-east Cavan. In other directions it meets the county of Westmeath. Its extreme length, as stated by Dr. Beaufort, is twenty miles; and its greatest breadth nineteen miles.* It is divided into the six baronies of *Longford*; *Granard*; *Ardagh*; *Moydoo*; *Rathline*; and *Shrowle*. The parishes are twenty-three in number, twenty-two of which are in the diocese of Ardagh, and one is in the diocese of Meath.

In general aspect this country is flat; but towards its northern extremity, where it projects into the counties of Leitrim and Cavan, its character varies, and the surface becomes rugged and uneven. Too large a proportion is still engrossed by bogs: the remainder is chiefly under tillage. This county is abundantly watered, and is, indeed, liable in many parts to injurious floods. Besides the Shannon, which forms its western boundary, the principal rivers are the *Inny*, the *Camlin*, and the *Fallen*. The chief natural productions found beneath the surface are iron-ore, lead, and ochres; to which may be added marbles in great variety, and fine slate. The principal towns are Longford and Granard, neither of which possesses much commercial importance, or extent

* *Memoir of a Map*, &c. p. 65.—A statistical survey of this county was written by the late R. L. Edgeworth, Esq. but the work has not been printed. We are told by Miss Edgeworth, in the "Memoirs" of her father, that "it waited so long for the finishing of a county-map, that it will now be necessary, before it can be given to the public, to add to what he wrote a view of the changes that have taken place in the county since 1806, when his survey was written. How much the whole county has been improved by large plantations, by buildings, and by better modes of agriculture, will then appear, and a judgment may thence be formed of the rate of general improvement." *Memoirs*, &c. v. ii. p. 367.

of population. Much linen is made in this county, and considerable quantities of yarn are sent to different parts of the island.

This district was formerly termed Annaly, and was the principality of the O'Ferralls, whose descendants were in possession of the western parts in the early years of the seventeenth century, next to whom the families of Tuite and Delamere were then the chief proprietors of land. Annaly was formed into a county, under its present name, by Sir Henry Sidney, lord deputy, in the reign of Elizabeth.

The population is thus stated in the returns made under the act of 1812.

Baronies, Half Baronies, or Parishes.	Number of Houses.	Gross Population
Ardagh,	2,917	17,787
Granard,	4,582	28,171
Longford,	3,615	20,389
Rathline,	3,090	11,464
Shrowle,	1,431	8,267
Moydoe,	1,713	9,839
TOTAL....	16,348	95,917

According to the returns made in the year 1821, the number of houses was 17,320, and the number of inhabitants 107,703. Thus, according to those returns, the increase of inhabitants, between the years 1813 and 1821, would appear to have amounted to 11,785.

LONGFORD,

the capital of this county, is seated on the river Camlin, at the distance of fifty-nine miles from Dublin. This is a small but respectable town, and returned two members to the Irish parliament until the period of the union. Longford, under the name of Athfadha, as we are informed in the Monasticon, obtained some notoriety in an early age of history, on account of an abbey, of which St. Idus, one of the disciples of St. Patrick, was abbot. A monastery also was founded here, in the year

1400, by O'Ferrall, prince of Annaly, for friars of the order of St. Dominick, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary. The buildings of this religious house were destroyed by fire in 1429, but were restored with the aid of contributions, encouraged by indulgences granted by the popes Martin V. and Eugene IV. The last grant of the monastic buildings was made by King James I. in favour of Francis Viscount Valentia, and the church of the friary was given as a parochial church.

The castle of Longford has been the scene of several conflicts, the principal of which occurred in the year 1641, at which time the Irish besieged and captured the building for the O'Ferralls, the antient lords of this town and district. At that sanguinary period destruction generally followed surrender, and the garrison were put to the sword, although, as is said, they had been promised quarter. In regard to ecclesiastical arrangement, Longford is situated in the parish of Temple-Michael; and the sum of 3490*l.* has been received from the board of first fruits, towards the erection of a spacious and handsome church, acting as a place of protestant worship for the union at large. Near the town is a charter school for sixty boys. The town was incorporated in the year 1668, but the grant of a weekly market had been obtained in 1605, by Richard, the tenth baron of Delvin. Independent of those already noticed, the principal buildings, of a public character, are a court-house, gaol, and barracks.—Longford gives the title of earl to the family of Pakenham, whose principal seat in Ireland we have noticed in our description of the county of Westmeath.

CARRICKGLASS, the seat of Thomas Gleadowe Newcomen, Viscount Newcomen, and Baron Newcomen, of *Mosstown*, in this county (at which place the baronet family of Newcomen was seated for many ages) is situated in the vicinity of the town of Longford, towards the north-east. This is a very fine residence, and the demesne, which is seated on the borders of the river Camlin, displays much more diversity and real beauty than is usual with the most highly cultivated estates of this county.

CASTLE-FORBES, distant from Longford about three miles, towards the north-west, is the handsome seat of George Forbes, Earl of Granard. An estate, consisting of 600 acres of arable and pasture land, and 668 acres of wood and bog, afterwards erected, with other adjacent lands, into the manor of Castle-Forbes, with the privileges of a weekly market and an annual fair, was granted by King James I. to Sir Arthur Forbes, ancestor of the present noble proprietor of this demesne, in 1619. By that gentleman was constructed a mansion at this place, which sustained a severe siege in the year 1641. Lady Forbes, then widow of the above-mentioned Sir Arthur, garrisoned this residence with the whole of her British tenants in the county of Longford. The assailants were about 500 in number, but were repulsed at four different times, after obstinate struggles; nor did the gallant lady consent to surrender, until the garrison was reduced to the last stage of misery through the want of provisions. Power to empark 800 acres at Castle-Forbes, for deer, was granted to Sir Arthur Forbes, afterwards first Earl of Granard, by Charles II. in 1661.*

Near Longford is also *Mount Jessop*, the pleasing residence of the Rev. Daniel Jessop.

GRANARD,† distant from Dublin fifty-two miles, is situated

* The mansion of Castle-Forbes is honourably noticed, in the Edgeworth Memoirs, as the seat of polished intercourse, in years not long since passed, between persons of much taste, and of considerable distinction for literary attainments, as well as the fortuitous advantages of rank and affluence. The late Lady Moira, mother of Lady Granard, will long be recollected by all who duly venerate mental accomplishments, and the still more potent attractions of a benevolent heart. Here that amiable lady drew round her many persons conspicuous, like herself, for conversational talents, among whom not the least interesting were the principal members of the family of Edgeworth-town, whose residence is distant about nine miles from Castle-Forbes.

† The following ingenious remarks of Dr. O'Connor apply to the etymology of the name by which this town is known.—Amongst some “very ancient religious names, in which the Irish and Phœnicians agreed,” that

in the north-east part of the county. This is a neat and respectable town, consisting chiefly of one good street, about half a mile in length. Near one extremity of the street is an artificial mount, of considerable elevation, usually called the moat of Granard. The antient national instrument of Ireland has, in recent years, experienced a pleasing degree of patronage in this town, prizes having been annually given to the best performers on the harp. Concerning the origin of this local custom in modern times, information to the following effect is afforded by Mr. Walker, in his *Memoirs of the Irish Bards*. Mr. Dungan, a native of Granard, who had settled in Denmark, and realized a handsome fortune, determined on employing a part of his wealth in benefactions to the country which had given him a place of birth. The encouragement of practitioners on the harp formed one object of his liberality, and he authorized a friend in Ireland to propose prizes, apportioned to different degrees of merit. The first trial of skill took place on August 1st, 1784, and judges were appointed by the company then assembled, which was numerous and respectable. The prizes were pecuniary, and on the following scale. Seven guineas to the best performer; five to the second; three to the third; and two to the fourth. Granard gives the title of Earl, in the Irish peerage, to the family of Forbes, of Scottish origin.

writer mentions "*Grian*, the Sun, from which all the *Grian-aras*, *Grianards*, and *Granges* of Ireland appear to derive their origin." After adducing several instances, in which this term is distinguishable in the names of places in Ireland at the present day, Dr. O'Connor observes "that in remote ages the Sun was adored by the same name in Phœnicia.—The epithet *Grynæus Apollo* occurs twice in Virgil, in ten inscriptions discovered by Gruter, and in one by Muratori.—Facciolati says that Apollo was called *Grynæus* by the Phrygians, and *Karneios* by the Dorians.—The Dea *Carnæa* is mentioned in Ovid's *Fasts*, as a goddess whose religion is antiquated and unknown. He adds that the ancients called her *Grane*, '*Graneon dixere priores*.' Now these religious names, continues Dr. O'Connor, are familiar in Ireland. *Carne* is the sacred heap of stones; *Carneach* is a pagan priest; and *Grian* is the sun.—The Irish *Cramlescs*, vulgarly called *Ganie's beds*, retain the name of *Grian* to this day." Bib. MS. Stowensis, vol. i. pp. 46-7.

In the vicinity of Granard is *Glenfin*, the seat of William Thompson, Esq. In the same neighbourhood is also the residence of Edward O'Farrell, Esq. assistant barrister.

In this north-eastern part of the county are several loughs, but not of great extent, nor such as are conspicuous for beauty. On the western borders of *Lough Coonagh*, stood the monastery of *Lerha*, which was founded by St. Patrick, and placed under the invocation of the Virgin Mary. This foundation was renovated in the year 1205, by the Tuile family, who re-founded the abbey for monks of the Cistercian order. Richard O'Ferrall, the last abbot, was made bishop of Ardagh in the year 1541. The parish-church of *Lerha*, or *Abbey-Laragh*, now occupies part of the site of the former monastic buildings. On the borders of *Lough Gawnagh* is the seat of John Dopping, Esq.

St. Johnstown, distant six miles from Granard, towards the west, is a small fair town, at present, of little consideration, although it had the privilege of returning two members to parliament, previous to the Union. It is believed that a grey friary, dedicated to *St. John the Baptist*, formerly stood at this place, but we are not aware that the slightest traces of such a building are now to be discovered.

Edgeworth-Town, situated near the eastern border of the county, at the distance of fifty-two miles from Dublin, demands particular notice, on account of the distinguished literary family from which it derives an appellation.

The family of Edgeworth is of English descent, and entered Ireland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Of this family the most eminent persons, within the century subsequent to its settlement in Ireland, were Edward Edgeworth, bishop of Down and Connor, and his brother, Francis Edgeworth, clerk of the Manaper in 1619.—Richard Lovell Edgeworth, Esq. whose literary efforts, in conjunction with those of his daughter, have in recent years imparted to the name a high degree of public interest, was born at Bath, in 1744. His father had studied at the Temple, but retired

after his marriage, to the family residence at Edgeworth-town, where he lived to an advanced age, in the prudent management and enjoyment of a good estate. Mr. R. L. Edgeworth was "led over the threshold of learning" by the Rev. Patrick Hughes, who was likewise the first classical instructor of Oliver Goldsmith, and several other literary characters. He was afterwards placed at different schools, both in Ireland and England; and was also successively a student at Trinity College, Dublin, and Corpus Christi, Oxford.

Mr. Edgeworth married so early in life that he had a son before he was twenty years of age; and afterwards resided for some years in England, where he kept terms at the Temple, but devoted a large portion of his time to literary and scientific pursuits.

On the decease of the wife to whom he was thus united at a more early period than was consistent with sound discretion, Mr. Edgeworth speedily married a lady (Miss Honora Saeyd) whose mental qualifications were peculiarly adapted to his views of the refined pleasure to be derived from domestic enjoyments. But his happiness with this lady was, also, of comparatively brief duration; and he twice entered into a matrimonial connexion after her death. His last wife, who survives him, was daughter of the Rev. Daniel Augustus Beaufort, L. L. D. whose name and literary worth we notice in our remarks on Collon, in the county of Louth. Shortly after his third marriage, and in the year 1782, Mr. Edgeworth settled with his family on his paternal estate at Edgeworth-town; and here, in the most enviable of all stations, that of a country gentleman, he resided, with the interruptions only of occasional journeys to England, Edinburgh, and Paris, until the lamented termination of his life; a period of nearly thirty-five years. A mind so strong, so active and benevolent as his, was admirably calculated for the arduous duties he had to encounter, as a resident landlord, intent at once on improving the state of his own domain, and of the humble classes of society, in a part of Ireland too much neglected for many ages. An outline of intelligence respecting the means he employed, and the degree of success with which his endeavours were attended, cannot fail of conveying agreeable

instruction; and we present it in the words of his tender but candid biographer—the daughter who emulates his best virtues.*

Mr. Edgeworth's public exertions to fulfil his duties to society, were exercised on an extensive scale. At an era of considerable political importance he obtained a seat in the Irish parliament (as representative of the borough of St. John's Town, in this county;) and, while he remained in the senate, he had the satisfaction and honour of directing the attention of the house to a subject of incalculable interest to Ireland,—*the education of the people*. In consequence of his efforts, leave was given “to bring in a bill for the Improvement of the Education of the People of Ireland;” and thence proceeded, at a future period, the appointment of a board, and commissioners of education. It is observable that all the personal amusements and private pursuits of Mr. Edgeworth

* In the second volume of the “Memoirs” of her father, we are told by Miss Edgeworth, that “the exertions he made from the time he settled at Edgeworth-town in 1782, in building comfortable dwellings for some of his tenants, and in assisting others to build the same for themselves;—his never following the vile system of making forty shilling freeholders, merely for electioneering purposes—the reasonable rent and tenure at which he let his land—the unusual time which he allowed his tenants to make their rent—his freeing them from *duty-work*—his avoiding as much as possible, in his leases, oppressive or restrictive clauses—his respecting the *tenant's right*, wherever tenants had improved—his encouraging them by the certainty of justice and kindness—his discouraging all expectation of partial favor or *protection*, if they transgressed the laws, or if they lived in indolence and inebriety; succeeded altogether beyond his most sanguine hopes, in meliorating the condition of the people. Especially within the last twenty years, his tenantry, and the whole face of his estate, strikingly improved in appearance, and essentially in reality. The poorest class of his tenants, who in former times lived in smoke and dirt, in too pitiable a condition for description, have now to most of their cabins chimneys and windows, comfortable thatch, and good earthen floors. The dunghills no longer stop up the windows, nor is ‘the first step out of the cabin into the dirt.’ The number of slated houses and boarded floors has much increased; and, what is of more consequence, and of better promise, for the future permanence of good habits, and for the progress of improvement, much of what has been done has been effected, not by the landlord, but by the tenants.” Vol. ii. pp.—368-9.

were rendered instrumental to public advantage. He had, throughout the greater part of his life, cultivated a taste for mechanics. In this pursuit he found an amusing employment; and several discoveries, or improvements, in science, effected in these hours of entertainment, have been successfully adopted in various departments of the "real business of life."

It must need no argument to show that the happiness of man is never so pure, and that the most estimable of his feelings are never so truly gratified, as when one felicitous union remains unbroken through all the varying stages of life. The chief afflictions of Mr. Edgeworth proceeded from the reiterated severity with which the fine, and primary tie of his social affections was severed by the hand of death. In alleviation, he was fortunate in finding a succession of virtues in those who repeatedly claimed the companionship of his heart, and an union of affections and interests, scarcely to be expected, amongst the offspring of several extinct compacts and of an existing connexion.

Much of this latter consoling charm may be ascribed to the wisdom of his parental rule, and to the just regulation of his feelings. We have observed that all Mr. Edgeworth's domestic pursuits were rendered of advantage to the public; and it may be asserted that a very peculiar benefit to society at large, proceeded from the circumstance of his having an unusual succession of families, calling forth his philosophical attention to the culture of their opening minds, with an ardour which will not be expected, or will not be met with, in any but a parent's bosom. It is well known that this gentleman, with the aid of his elder and celebrated daughter, Maria, performed the task of educating the children of his three last marriages; and their united remarks, modes, and precepts have been communicated to the world in "Practical Education," and other works, which have in an eminent degree advanced the science of juvenile tuition. On the excellence of these works it must be needless to dilate; but it may be remarked that the family of Edgeworth-town, conspicuous for the solid merits which enrich, and the charms of manner

which adorn, the world, afford the most satisfactory test of the doctrines there inculcated.

Mr. Edgeworth died, after a long and painful illness, on the 13th of June, 1817, and was succeeded in the estate of Edgeworthstown by his eldest son, Lovell Edgeworth, Esq. the present proprietor of this demesne. So much public interest is taken in the welfare and situation of a family, from which great information and amusement have been derived, that it is incumbent on the present writer to profit by his opportunities, in observing that the same harmony which existed whilst a father's guiding hand was recognized in every movement, still prevails amongst its numerous members; the whole forming a memorable example of the lasting effects which may be expected to accrue from a system of judicious education, pursued with unremitting perseverance.

The name of Maria, the eldest daughter of Mr. Edgeworth, is so closely blended with the literary character of that gentleman, and stands individually so high in public esteem, that we cannot conclude our brief notice of this polished and excellent family, without adverting to the nature of her claims on the unusual degree of approbation she has experienced.

It would be superfluous to expatiate, at any length, on the character of writings so generally read, and so fairly appreciated, as the works of this lady. The leading feature in her literary productions is the same high, bright, and unaffected good sense that is conspicuous in her private demeanour. Imagination is the vein of mind least cultivated, in most of her writings. Utility, gracefully effected, appears, indeed, to be the object she steadily and successfully holds in view. Her knowledge of the human heart is rendered additionally operative, in the detail of literary execution, by an accurate acquaintance with manners; for which latter advantage she was, as is stated by herself, under many obligations to the experience of a parent, who was at once her "critic, partner, father and friend." That a fellowship in literary composition long existed between Mr. Edgeworth and his highly-gifted daughter, is well known; and to this association

the public is indebted for some exquisite delineations of Irish manners, combining the broad with the delicate features of original character.*

Our limits, and the nature of our work, prevent us from tracing the degrees of this literary connexion, with materials afforded in the Memoirs of Mr. Edgeworth, begun by himself and concluded by his daughter; but we must observe, that, from Miss Edgeworth's part of that biographical performance, it is quite evident that she is qualified to amuse and to instruct, from the resources of her own genius and experience, while we join with her in deploring the loss of an assisting friend, so valuable and revered.

The *family seat* of Edgeworth-town is a respectable and commodious structure, originally built about the middle of the eighteenth century, but so greatly altered and improved as to be chiefly re-edified, by its late owner. In effecting these improvements, we are told by the amiable continuator of his Memoirs, that he "went on by slow degrees, as prudence required, year after year, as his circumstances could afford, without in any one year exceeding his income: he made additions, or alterations, till after exerting some engineering skill, not without frequent predictions from the lookers on, that he would pull the whole house down, he succeeded in making it such as to satisfy his own moderate wishes, and a comfortable residence for a large family."

The grounds attached to the mansion, as we are informed in the same work, "appeared to have been originally laid out in

* Prominent among the works of this description, published "in partnership" by Mr. and Miss Edgeworth, is the "Essay on Irish Bulls." Concerning this amusing publication Miss Edgeworth observes, "The first design of this Essay was his:—under the semblance of attack, he wished to shew the English public the eloquence, wit, and talents of the lower classes of people in Ireland. Working zealously upon the ideas which he suggested, sometimes, what was spoken by him, was afterwards written by me; or when I wrote my first thoughts, they were corrected and improved by him; so that no book was ever written more completely in partnership." Memoirs, &c.

humble imitation, on a small scale, of the frontispiece to Miller's Gardener's Dictionary, in the original Dutch taste." The whole demesne was newly-modelled by Mr. Edgeworth, shortly after he acceded to the estate. Nature has yielded few beauties to this part of the county; but a correct judgment has laboured, with all attainable success, to supply her deficiencies in the demesne of Edgeworth-town, the lawns and plantations of which are truly agreeable, and of a character consistent with the dwelling.

The village of Edgeworth-town has a neat and improving aspect, at once creditable and grateful to the family in which the property of the "town" is vested. The *Church*, a pleasing structure, of moderate dimensions, is ornamented with a spire of unusual character, executed after a plan of the late Mr. Edgeworth.*

In the church-yard is the burial-vault of the Edgeworth family; and among the inscriptions to different members of this family, within the church, is that of the late Richard Lovell Edgeworth, Esq. which is placed upon a plain marble tablet on one side of the communion-table, and simply states his name, and the dates of his birth and death.†

* This spire is fifty feet high, from the base to the star with which it is crowned. It was put together withinside of the tower, and when completely finished, was drawn up in eighteen minutes by machinery, and placed in its present situation. It consists of a skeleton, of hammered English iron, covered with strong Welsh slates, capped where they meet on the skeleton by copper bands and cramps; the whole being painted, and covered with sand, so as to imitate stone. Before the spire was put together in the tower, the parts were previously fitted on the ground, not perpendicularly, but lying sideways, so that each bar could be easily reached by the workmen. The cost of this spire did not exceed one hundred and fifty guineas, while a spire of the same dimensions, built of Portland stone, would have cost at least six times that sum; and its erection gave such general satisfaction, that the board of first fruits thought proper, as a mark of their approbation, to pay the whole of the expense incurred.—See an account of the construction of this spire, and of the machinery by which it was raised, in Nicholson's Journal, vol. xxx.

† The following directions concerning his burial were left in writing by Mr. Edgeworth, addressed to his sons, who were his executors:—"I desire, that I may be buried in as private a manner, and at as little expense

interest of this place proceeds from its former importance in ecclesiastical history. Here are no traces of architectural splendour to arrest the attention. Even when Harris wrote his continuation of Ware, "all that remained of the cathedral was a part of a wall, built with large stones, from which the whole appeared to have been a very small building when entire." The parochial church is a commodious structure, towards the completion of which the sum of 900*l.* was granted by the board of first fruits.

The bishopric of Ardagh was founded by St. Patrick, who consecrated, as first bishop, his nephew and disciple, St. Mœl, about the year 454. An abbey was also founded here by St. Patrick; and St. Mœl became at once abbot and bishop of Ardagh, as was the early usage of the Irish church. He died in the year 487, or 488, and was succeeded in both his ecclesiastical offices by his brother, St. Melchus, who is said by Colgan to have followed his uncle St. Patrick out of Britain, and to have been the "unwearied companion of his labours, and the zealous imitator of his virtues." The memorials respecting the successors of St. Melchus are few and uncertain, until the commencement of the thirteenth century. From that date we give an enumeration of the prelates, terminating at the annexation of this bishopric to the archiepiscopal see of Tuam. Some previous removals of the see, however, require notice, and we present an account of these in the words of Mr. Erck, as contained in the Ecclesiastical Register of Ireland.

"Upon the demise of Bishop Ferrall, in 1603, the three

During a journey between Ballymahon and Edgeworth-town, at a very youthful period of life, Goldsmith lingered on his way, until, at the fall of night, he found himself a mile or two out of his direct road, in the middle of the street of Ardagh. Here he inquired for the best house in the place, meaning an inn; but being wilfully misunderstood by a wag, he was directed to the large old-fashioned residence of Sir Ralph Featherston, the landlord of the town, where he was shewn into the parlour, when he found the hospitable master of the house sitting by a good fire. His mistake was immediately perceived by Sir Ralph, who being a man of humour, and well acquainted with the poet's family, encouraged him in the deception."—Oration of Rev. J. Graham, &c.

succeeding bishops held the see of Ardagh united with that of Kilmore. Bishop Richardson was then advanced to Ardagh separately, and on his death in 1654, this see continued vacant till the Restoration, when it was granted by King Charles, to Robert Maxwell, at that time Bishop of Kilmore, and was so held by his two successors, till the advancement of Ulysses Burgh, who was promoted to Ardagh alone in 1692; but he dying within the same year, it was re-united to Kilmore. In 1742, it was once more disjoined from Kilmore, on the translation of Bishop Hart to the archiepiscopal see of Tuam, with which it has been ever since held *in commendam*. The Archbishop of Tuam is suffragan to the lord primate, as Bishop of Ardagh."

There are in this diocese a dean, archdeacon, and four rural deans, but no chapter nor episcopal residence. Its greatest length, according to Beaufort, is forty-two miles, whilst the breadth varies from four to fourteen miles. The number of parishes within its limits is 37; which parishes are situated in the following counties; 3 in Cavan; 7 in Leitrim; 1 in Sligo; 1 in Roscommon; 22 in Longford; and 3 in Westmeath.

BISHOPS OF ARDAGH.

Succ.

Adam, or Anad, O'Murraid, who died	
in 1217, was followed by	
Robert.....	1217
Simon Magraith.....	1224
Joseph Magodaig	1230

See vacant two years.

Jocelin O'Tormaig.....	1233
Brendan Magodaic.....	1238
Milo of Dunstable.....	1256

See vacant one year.

Mathew O'Heothy.....	1290
John Mageoi	1331

See vacant three years.

	Succ.
Qwen O'Ferral	1347
William Mac-Casac	1367
Charles O'Ferral.....	1373
John O'Fraic	1378

See vacant about two years.

Gilbert Mac Brady.....	1396
Adam Lyns (died in 1416)	

See vacant two years.

Cornelius O'Ferral.....	1418
Richard O'Ferral (before 1427)	
Magsamhradhan	1445
Cormac	
William O'Ferral	
Thomas O'Congalan	
Owen	1508
Richard O'Ferral.....	1541
Patrick Mac Mahon.....	1553

See vacant nearly six years.

Lisach O'Ferral	1583
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BISHOPS OF ARDAGH AND KILMORE.

Robert Draper.....	1603
Thomas Moygue.....	1612
William Bedell	1629

BISHOPS OF ARDAGH.

John Richardson.....	1633
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BISHOPS OF ARDAGH AND KILMORE.

Robert Maxwell*	1660
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* Robert Maxwell was consecrated bishop of Kilmore in 1643, but did not receive a grant of the bishopric of Ardagh until the year noticed in the text, 1660.

	Succ.
Francis Marsh.....	1672
William Sheridan	1681

BISHOP OF ARDAGH.

Ulysses Burgh	1692
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BISHOPS OF ARDAGH AND KILMORE.

William Smith	1693
Edward Wetenhall.....	1699
Timothy Godwin	1713
Josiah Hort	1727

Ardagh affords a seat to Sir George-Ralph Fetherston, Bart.
M. P.

The town of LANESBOROUGH, seated on the river Shannon, derives the first part of its appellation from the family of Lane, formerly proprietors of this place, and ennobled by the title of Viscount Lanesborough. This small town consists of no more than about sixty houses, and affords few objects to interest the traveller. The river Shannon is here crossed by a substantial bridge, erected in the year 1706, towards the expense of which £100 was contributed by James Viscount Lanesborough. The parochial church is formed from the nave of an antient structure, traditionally termed an abbey, having some remains of a square tower at the west end. No monastic foundation at this place is noticed by any historian, but some traces of such an institution may possibly still be discovered, on a diligent investigation of the records. Several of the noble family of Lane are buried in a vault beneath this church.

On the failure of heirs male in the family of Lane, in the early part of the eighteenth century, Brinsley Butler, baron of Newtown-Butler, was (August 12th, 1728,) created Viscount Lanesborough; and Humphrey, the eldest son of that nobleman, was, in 1756, raised to the dignity of Earl of Lanesborough, which titles are still enjoyed by his descendants.

At the distance of about two miles from Lanesborough are the ruins of *Rathline*, or *Rathcline Castle*. These vestiges are situated at the base of the hill of Rathline, and on the margin of the river Shannon. The situation is extremely fine, and the ruins are picturesque and interesting. This castle is said to have been first erected by the family of O'Quin, and many sanguinary contests for possession of its embattled walls are still remembered by traditionary records, although unnoticed by the regular historians of the country. The fortress was dismantled by Cromwell, and was afterwards reduced by fire in the wars of James II. It is observed by Seward that "a very antient inscription, cut in the Irish character on a marble slab, and fixed in the wall of one of the rooms, was removed, or destroyed, by a gentleman who lately resided in the modern house, built close to the castle from its ruins." In the vicinity of the castle are the remains of a church, evincing considerable antiquity, with an attached cemetery, still used as a place of burial for catholics. The town of Lanesborough is situated in the parish of Rathline.

At the distance of one mile from Lanesborough is the residence of Captain Davys, agreeably situated on the eastern banks of the Shannon.

On the south-west border of this county the river Shannon expands into that noble spread of water, which has been already noticed in our account of Westmeath, under the name of *Lough-ree*. Such parts of this Lough as are contiguous to the county of Longford, are interspersed with various islands, and afford some of its most pleasing features to a district little indebted to nature for picturesque charms. On several of the islands in Lough-ree monastic institutions were founded at early periods, of which the following are noticed in the *Monasticon Hibernicum*.—On *Inis-boffin* (the Island of the White Cow) an abbey was founded by S. Riach, who flourished in the early part of the sixth century. On *Inisclothrann*, not far distant from the above, St. Dhiarmuid Naoimh founded an abbey, about the year 540, which became famous for its schools, and the numerous learned men who studied within the grateful retirement of its insulated walls. The

dot of land called *the Island of all Saints* was celebrated for a rich monastery, founded by St. Kieran, in the year 544. It is believed that this religious house was re-founded by the family of Dillon, of Drumrany. At the suppression it was granted to Sir Patrick Barnewall.

The town of BALLYMAHON, distant from Dublin fifty-three miles, is situated on the river Inny, which is here crossed by a bridge of five arches, and is navigable from this place to Loughree. The Shannon and the Royal Canal also pass near the town, in the line extending from Dublin to Tarmonbarry.—Ballymahon is mentioned by O'Halloran, and some other writers on the history of Ireland, as the scene of a battle, fought A. D. 960, between Mahon, king of Thomond, and Fergal, the son of Ruarc; in which the latter was defeated. In the vicinity of the present bridge there was formerly a castle of considerable strength, now destroyed, with the exception of some vaults, over which is built a dwelling-house.

Some linen is here manufactured, and a thriving trade, although on a moderate scale, is cultivated in linen yarn and cloth, flannel and other woollen goods. The town has a weekly market, together with quarterly fairs; and the trade and convenience of the inhabitants derive much benefit from a well-appointed boat, for the conveyance of passengers and goods, which passes daily between this place and Dublin, by means of the canal. The public buildings, independent of the bridge, have few claims on attention, and consist of the church (which acts as the place of worship, in the establishment, for the whole parish of Shruel, in which this town is situated); a well-attended Roman catholic chapel; and a market-house, more conspicuous for antiquity than convenience.

The views in many parts of the surrounding country are extremely pleasing, although a want of wood very generally prevails. The banks of the Inny afford the chief picturesque attractions, and will be regarded with no ordinary interest, when it is recollected that they form the scenery amidst which OLIVER

GOLDSMITH rambled in boyhood, and from which he received his first impressions of natural beauty. The connexion of that writer with the town of Ballymahon, is noticed in our account of the neighbouring village, termed Pallice.

CASTLECOR, the seat of Thomas Hussey, Esq. has been justly termed "one of the most singular mansion-houses in the province of Leinster." This building was erected by the late Rev. Cutts Harman, dean of Waterford, who is said to have taken as a model the round tower of Windsor castle. The principal room, for which the chief part of the house has been sacrificed, is circular, and paved with marble. The windows command fine views of the river Inny; and this very unusual apartment may be tolerated in summer, but it will be readily supposed that a room, thus apparently dedicated to the "chill genius of the north," must be insupportable in a less favourable season, to persons accustomed to the luxuries of modern domestic arrangement. Four small but pleasant apartments, with floorings of board, branch from this great central region of cold and damp. The kitchens, and other subordinate apartments, are in an under-ground story.—In the vicinity are the ruins of an antient fortified building, concerning which many strange tales prevail, when the peasantry indulge in reciting those Christmas legends which will be noticed in a subsequent page; and we are told that frequent excavations have been made among these wild ruins, in the night-time, by persons who *had dreamed* of finding hidden treasures there.

TIRLICKEN, the residence of Matthew Crawford, Esq. was built by the late Lord Annaly. The antient mansion of Tirlicken, which stood nearer to Ballymahon, and is now in ruins, was long the seat of Sir Connel O'Farrel, who forfeited his estates in the troubles of the seventeenth century, but was restored by the acts of settlement and explanation in 1662.

BALLYMULVEY, the residence of Thomas Achmuty, Esq. is the antient seat of a branch of the Dillon family, once possessed

of the principal estate in this neighbourhood, which they forfeited in the calamitous year 1641. This property, including the town of Ballymahon, afterwards passed through the families of Ash and Molyneux, and is now vested in J. B. Shuldham, Esq. The mansion is finely situated on the north bank of the river Inny, and is enriched with a well-wooded demesne.

In the vicinity of Ballymahon are also *Lissglassick*, the seat of John R. Robinson, Esq.; *Clonwellan*, William Murray, Esq.; *Newcastle*, Lady Ross; and *Cartron*, Thomas Wright, Esq.

At **PALLICE**, on the southern banks of the river Inny, near the town of Ballymahon, was born **OLIVER GOLDSMITH**.* “The Goldsmith family,” as we are informed by Mr. Graham, “has been long settled in Ireland; and though one of them (Dr. Isaac Goldsmith) was dean of Cork in the year 1730, they seem to have resided chiefly in the province of Connaught. For several generations they regularly furnished a minister for the established church, being what is termed a clerical family. The father of the poet was the Rev. Charles Goldsmith, who married the

* Our information concerning the family of this distinguished writer and some passages in the early part of his life, are chiefly collected from a very ingenious statistical account of the parish of Shruel, by the Rev John Graham, M.A. forming part of the third vol. of Mr. Shaw Mason’s “Parochial Survey of Ireland.”—In regard to the identity of the spot on which Goldsmith was born, several contradictory statements have been made by different editors of his works. In the epitaph written by Dr. Johnson, and placed on Goldsmith’s monument in Westminster abbey, are these words: “Natus in Hibernia Fornice Longfordiensis, in loco cui nomen Pallas.” It may be reasonably concluded that Johnson received this information from the lips of the deceased; and the intelligence conveyed by the epitaph is confirmed by the testimony of many persons, only lately dead, in the neighbourhood of Pallice, including some of the nearest relations of the poet. The place is situated within one mile and a half of the town of Ballymahon, in the parish of Cloncalla, commonly called *Forney*. The walls of the house in which Goldsmith was born are yet standing, but the whole is in a ruinous condition, as the roof fell in a few years back. The building at the time of Goldsmith’s birth was in the occupation of his maternal grandfather, the Rev. Oliver Jones.

daughter of the Rev. Oliver Jones, diocesan schoolmaster of Elphin, in the county of Roscommon. By the residence of Mr. Charles Goldsmith at Pallice, on the 29th of November, 1728, when his son Oliver was born, it is probable he was curate of the chapel of ease in the parish of Cloncalla, or Forgeny. He was afterwards promoted to a benefice in the county of Roscommon. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Goldsmith settled in Ballymahon, with her son Oliver, then a child, and lodged in the house now occupied by Mr. John Lanigan, at the corner of the entrance from Edgeworth-town road."

At this place Goldsmith's mother lived, in low circumstances and indifferent health, until the year 1772, or 1773, at which time she was nearly blind. It is traditionally said that the poet, when a boy, was "of reserved and distant manners, fond of solitary walks, spending most of his time among the rocks and wooded islands of the river Inny, which is remarkably beautiful at Ballymahon."

Connected with this period of his life may be noticed an anecdote, inserted in Mr. Graham's "Statistical account of Shruel," on the authority of a direct descendant of the Rev. Henry Goldsmith, of Lissoy, curate of Kilkenny west, the elder brother of the poet. "Goldsmith was always plain in his appearance, but when a boy, and immediately after suffering heavily with the small-pox, he was particularly ugly. When he was about seven years old, a fiddler, who reckoned himself a wit, happened to be playing to some company in Mrs. Goldsmith's house; during a pause between the country-dances, little Oliver surprised the party by jumping up suddenly, and dancing round the room. Struck with the grotesque appearance of the ill-favoured boy, the fiddler exclaimed, "Æsop!" and the company burst into laughter, when Oliver turned to them with a smile, and repeated the following lines:—

"Heralds proclaim aloud, all saying,

"See Æsop dancing, and his monkey playing."

On the 11th of June, 1744, Goldsmith was entered of Trinity College, Dublin; and in the entry on the college books, the Rev.

Theaker Wilder (a younger son of the family of Castlewilder, in this county) is named as his tutor.* In 1747, he obtained "his only laurel in the University of Dublin, that of an exhibition on the foundation of Erasmus Smyth, Esq. and in this year he was publicly admonished for having been concerned in a riot, and pumping a bailiff, who had invaded the privileged precincts of the college.—On the 27th of February, 1749, he was admitted a bachelor of arts, two years after the regular time; and he then qualified himself for admission to the College library."

In 1753, Goldsmith was at Edinburgh, as a medical student; and in the following year he commenced his unfriended travels. The leading features in his subsequent life are well known to the public; and the writings on which he was employed during many of his mature years, cannot fail to render his biography a subject of interest with very remote posterity. In all his "wanderings round this world of care," he was actuated by an ardent desire of revisiting the scenes of his youth. In a letter, written in December, 1757, to Daniel Hudson, Esq. at Lissoy, near Ballymahon, (which gentleman had married his sister, he says that "he wishes from his heart, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson, Lissoy and Ballymahon, and all his friends there, would fairly make a migration into Middlesex;" adding, "that as, on second thoughts, this might be attended with inconvenience, Mahomet should go to the mountain;" and he promised to spend some weeks of the ensuing summer between Ballymahon and Lissoy. He also observes, in a sportive way, "that it is unaccountable a man should have an affection for a place, who never received, when in it, above common civility, and who never brought anything out of it but his brogue and his blunders."

* In the *Philosophical Survey of the South of Ireland*, Dr. Campbell asserts that Goldsmith's tutor was "a Dr. Radcliffe," and mentions a letter written from England by the poet to his former tutor at college, requesting a testimonial of good character, such a credential being deemed necessary for his appointment to the humble office of usher in a country school. Goldsmith, however, according to Dr. Campbell's anecdote, had thought proper to assume a feigned name on first going to England, and his letter was therefore not answered by Dr. Radcliffe. *Phil. Surv.* pp. 287-8.

Unhappily the fervent wish he entertained of again seeing this spot, so tenderly beloved, although the soil proved ungenial to his early views, was never gratified.

It is certain that the scenery of this neighbourhood had made a vivid impression on his susceptible mind; and it is confidently supposed that many of his poetical descriptions are drawn from objects with which he was here familiar. Several of these rural objects, rendered so enchanting in poetical delineation, are believed to exist at *Lissoy*, at which place his brother (curate of Kilkenny-west, in the adjoining county of Westmeath) resided, when Goldsmith addressed to him the poem entitled the "Traveller."*

It will be heard with pleasure by the admirers of this excellent poet (who are, assuredly, of the same number as his readers) that a meeting has lately been held, for the purpose of drawing the public attention to the subject of erecting a monument in honour of his memory, near the place of his birth. The design of this

* The late Rev. R. H. Newel, of Cambridge, who republished the poems of Goldsmith a few years back, contends, with great appearance of probability, that many of the objects portrayed in the "Deserted Village," were to be found in Lissoy. In Mr. Newell's edition of Goldsmith's poems are inserted views of the Parsonage-house, the Church, and the Mill. But it will be obvious that the *scene of action* in that poem is laid in England, although, in the descriptive parts, the poet appears to have delineated objects really existing in the favourite haunts of his boyish years. It is observed by the Rev. Mr. Graham, in his "account of Shruel," that "the clergyman's mansion is still well known; the parish church of Kilkenny west "tops a neighbouring hill;" the lake and the mill lie between it and the mansion house; the hawthorn tree still exists, though mutilated "*laniatum corpore toto*," by the curious travellers, who cut pieces from it as from the royal oak, or from the mulberry tree of Stratford-upon-Avon. The village alehouse has lately been rebuilt, and ornamented by the sign of the "three jolly pigeons."—A lady from the neighbourhood of Portglenone, in the county of Antrim, visited Lissoy in the summer of 1817, and was fortunate enough to find, in a cottage adjoining the alehouse, the identical print of "the twelve good rules," which ornamented that rural tavern, along with "the royal game of goose; the wooden clock, &c."

meeting, as we believe, originated with the Rev. John Graham, of Lifford, a clergyman of distinguished literary talents, whose name will again occur in our notice of the county of Donegal. The meeting took place at Ballymahon, on the anniversary of Goldsmith's birth-day, and was very respectably attended.

As we think it to be probable that some curiosity may be entertained to examine the state of rural society, together with any strongly marked peculiarities of manners and customs, in a neighbourhood which imparted his first impressions to a poet of genuine pathos and touching simplicity—a writer for every age and country—we devote a page to remarks on those subjects, the contents of which are collected from the work to which we have already acknowledged our obligations.

The peasantry of this district are “shrewd, intelligent, and industrious; fond of manly exercises and amusements; such as foot-ball, hurling, wrestling, and swimming, in most of which they excel. They assemble on summer Sunday evenings, and amuse themselves by dancing, for the prize of a cake, which is exhibited on a pole, to encourage the candidates by a view of the object of their ambition. English is universally spoken, though the great body of the people understand Irish, and many of them prefer using it. The manners of these people are mild and prepossessing, though they all possess what higher folks term a nice sense of honour; that is, they would neither give nor take an affront; they would be led, not driven.”

The customs of the inhabitants deviate in but few particulars, from those observable in other parts of Ireland. “The new year, and the first day of the month or week, are considered the properest times for commencing any undertaking. No man removes to a new habitation on a Friday, because it is one of the cross days of the year, and “*a Saturday sitting makes a short sitting.*” For a fortnight before Shrove Tuesday, the great day for weddings, it is the practice for persons in disguise to run through the street of Ballymahon, from seven to nine or ten o'clock in the evenings, announcing intended marriages, or giving pretty broad hints for matchmaking.”

On the first day of May, "green bushes are planted opposite every door, and the pavement is covered with flowers. Hallow-eve is observed, on the last day of October, with the usual necromantic ceremonies, and the amusement concludes with a supper of *granbree*; that is, boiled wheat buttered and sweetened." At the jocund season of Christmas, the grown people, "after feasting on their best fare, amuse themselves by dancing, blindman's buff, questions and commands, and *the relating or hearing of legendary tales*." We are sorry to conclude our notice of the modes used in celebrating particular seasons, with observing, that the day dedicated to St. Stephen is passed in the savage sport of bull-baiting.

Among several well-improved seats in this county, not noticed in previous pages, may be mentioned *Newtown Bond*, Alexander Bond, Esq.; *Mosstown*, Alexander Kingston, Esq.; *Ledwithstown*, John Ledwith, Esq.; *Clonbroney*, William Davis, Esq.; *Bawn*, John Ousley, Esq.; and *Richfort*, James Richardson, Esq. At *Killashree*, in the western part of the county, are the seats of Archdeacon Digby, and William B. Montfort, Esq.

COUNTY OF LOUTH.

THIS county is bounded on the east by the Irish sea, and is separated from the county of Down, on the north-east, by a branch of that sea forming the bay of Carlingford. On the north lies Armagh, and on the north-west Monaghan. In other directions it meets the county of Meath, from which it is separated on the south by the river Boyne.

This is the smallest county in Ireland, its extreme length, according to Dr. Beaufort, being twenty-one miles, and its greatest width fourteen miles. The principal inequalities of surface are found in a mountainous tract between Dundalk and Carlingford, and a hilly district in the neighbourhood of Collon. In other parts the soil is finely amenable to the purposes of agriculture, and is chiefly under tillage. Independent of the Boyne, which washes its southern border, four small rivers cross this county from west to east. On the coast the bays of Dundalk and Carlingford are the most distinguished features. Louth is divided into four baronies, named *Dundalk*; *Louth*; *Ardee*; and *Ferrard*; besides the *County of the Town of Drogheda*. These are again divided into sixty-one parishes, situated in the diocese of Armagh, together with part of two parishes in the diocese of Clogher.

This county is defaulting, in regard to the returns of population under the act of 1812. According to statements made from the Enumerators' Periodical Returns of Progress, and the Reports of the Magistrates, in the year 1821, the number of houses and inhabitants in the county, was, in the last named year, as follows. Number of houses 17,428, number of inhabitants 101,070.

The county of Louth formerly constituted part of the antient extensive territory termed *Orgiel*, *Oriel*, or *Uriel*, which compre-

headed, likewise, the present counties of Monaghan and Armagh, including many smaller territories.*

This district abounds in those rude vestiges of very remote antiquity, which consist of earthworks, chiefly designed for sepulchral purposes, or acting as places of defensive habitation. Cromlechs, and other relics of ante-christian ages, although much lessened in number within the last century, are still frequently seen, and are, in several instances, extremely curious. There are, also, many remains of ecclesiastical and military structures, erected at various periods subsequent to the settlement of the English in this country. These specimens of antient architecture are usually on a small scale. Most of the castles now remaining would appear to have been built early in the thirteenth century.

The county of Louth suffered severely in the wars of the seventeenth century. The principal families residing here, at the commencement of that æra, were the Taafes; Bellews; Dowdalls; Verdones; Gernons; Flemings; Nettervilles; D'Arcys; and Portlances.

In regard to its modern state, Drogheda is the chief town, and is a place of considerable importance. Agriculture is the most beneficial pursuit; but the manufacture of coarse linen is

* In Gough's additions to Camden's notice of this county, is the following statement of the antient divisions of Louth, which depends for acceptation on intelligence derived, by the late Mr. Beauford, from the Book of Ballymote and other authorities.—“Louth contains the antient principality of *Conal Muirthemn*, or *Uriel*, and southern part of the antient *Oir Caël*, being the country of the antient *Conragii*; the chiefs or princes of which were the Mac Mahons, or *Mac Machanan*. The subordinate cantreds were *Fera-Arda*, or *Fatharta*, the present barony of Ferrard. *Hy Segan* or *Hy Seanghain*, the present barony of Atherdee. *Fera Lorg*, *Lorgan*, or *Lurgin*, contained the southern parts of the present barony of Dundalk. *Hy Mac Uais* the country of Mac Scanlan, contained the northern part of the barony of Dundalk. *Ludha*, or *Lugha*, the antient seat of the *Lugnii*, and *Uriel* proper, contained the present barony of Louth, the hereditary chiefs of which were the *Hy Corbhail*, or O'Carrols, styled frequently princes of *Uriel*,” Camden's *Britannia*, by Gough, vol. iv. p. 396.

pursued in many parts of the country, with some success. The cotton trade also flourishes in one neighbourhood. Amongst the principal landed proprietors, having a seat in the county, may be named Lord Oriel; the Earl of Roden; the Viscount Clermont; and Sir Edward Bellew, Bart.

DROGHEDA.

This populous and commercial town, distant from Dublin twenty-three and a half miles, is situated on the northern and southern banks of the Boyne, about five miles from the mouth of that river, or place at which it enters the Irish sea. The southern part is usually said to be comprised in the county of Meath, and that on the opposite bank in Louth; but the town of Drogheda has, in fact, the privilege of constituting a county in itself. Although disfigured at the outlets by lines of sordid huts, this is, in its principal parts, a well-built town. Great improvements have been effected in recent years, and the chief street and the quay now contain many handsome and commodious houses. It was formerly a place of considerable strength, being encompassed by walls, having four gates; many parts of which fortified outlines still remain, but, with some few exceptions, in a decayed and imperfect condition. The gate of St. Lawrence is the best-preserved vestige of the antient fortifications.

We are not aware that any particulars have been preserved concerning the history of Drogheda, in very early periods. It is noticed by Camden that King Edward II. "granted to this place the privilege of a market and fair, in favour of Theobald Verdun; and that other kings confirmed to it many great privileges, and among the rest that of having a mint." In the reign of Edward III. it was constituted, in conjunction with Dublin, Waterford, and Cork, a *staple-town*; from which circumstance we clearly ascertain its commercial importance in the fourteenth century. King Richard II. was here in 1394; and, on the 16th of March in that year, he received, in the hall of the Dominican friary, the submission of O'Nial, O'Hanlon, O'Donnel, Mac Mahon, and other chieftains of Ulster. Several parliaments were held in this town, among

which may be noticed the memorable assembly of November, 1494, in which was made the enactment generally known by the name of *Poyning's law*. The war-cries of particular families, or septs, were also prohibited by the same parliament.

In the reign of Edward IV. an university was founded in this town, by authority of a parliament held here, in November, 1465. It was intended that this establishment should possess the same privileges as the University of Oxford; but the want of a sufficient revenue, and the confused state of public affairs in Ireland at that time, caused the design to prove either abortive, or, at best, short-lived.*

The most important historical transactions relate to the wars of the seventeenth century. From its capabilities of defence, and local circumstances, it was readily perceived, by the leaders in those civil contests, that the possession of Drogheda was essential to the security of the metropolis, and also to a ready communication with the north. The town consequently became the scene of very afflictive military events. Early in these wars it was defended for the king, by Sir Henry Titchburne and Lord Moore, Viscount Drogheda, against several thousands of the rebellious party, raised in Ulster and Leinster, and commanded by Sir Phelim O'Nial. The town now experienced a long blockade, but was relieved by the approach of the Earl of Ormonde. It was again invested by a parliamentary force under Michael Jones, and was a second time relieved by the advance of Ormonde.

The time, however, speedily arrived at which its walls were to witness the array of a more formidable enemy. In September, 1649, Oliver Cromwell set down before this town, in considerable strength. The garrison consisted of 2000 foot and 300 horse, all chosen men, commanded by Sir Arthur Aston, a catholic officer of tried gallantry; and the fortifications had been lately repaired, under the direction of Ormonde. Great confidence was placed in these preparations for defence; but the courage and

* In Ware's *Antiqs.* by Harris, vol. ii. p. 245, is a copy of the foundation statute of the University of Drogheda, together with a translation of the original French in which it is composed.

placed in these preparations for defence ; but the courage and vigour of Cromwell proved irresistible. On his summons being rejected, he commenced the most active and strenuous operations. An incessant play of cannon effected a breach, before the expiration of the second day, and the place was then attempted by storm. Twice the assailants were repulsed ; but on a third effort, they entered, and obtained possession of the town. The scene which then took place struck dismay throughout all Ireland, and can never be mentioned without a thrill of horror. It would appear to be unquestionable that quarter had been promised, and given, until the conquest became entire. But Cromwell resolved, by one tremendous blow, to impress on the Irish such a dread of his arms, as might tend to prevent further opposition, and he deliberately gave orders for the whole of the garrison to be put to the sword ! The scene of carnage lasted five days. The governor, and all his gallant officers, fell with their men. Many ecclesiastics also perished. Thirty persons only escaped the slaughter, and these were transported as slaves, to one of the West India islands.

In 1689, and the following year, this town was garrisoned by James II. but was given up to King William, without a struggle, after his victory on the adjacent banks of the Boyne.*

* The circumstances attending the surrender of Drogheda, on the 2nd of July, 1690, are thus succinctly, yet satisfactorily stated by Mr. Harris. " The day after the victory at the Boyne, the King sent Brigadier *de Melloniere*, with a thousand horse, a party of foot, and eight pieces of cannon, to summon Drogheda, where the Irish had a great magazine, and a garrison of thirteen hundred men, commanded by Lord Iveagh. The governor at first seemed resolute to defend the place, and received the summons with great contempt ; but the King sending word, " That if he was forced to bring the cannon before the place, he must expect no quarter ; " his lordship, considering that King James's army being defeated he could expect no relief, accepted of the offered conditions, and marched out with only the garrison and baggage, leaving all their arms and stores. Col. Cuts's regiment took possession of the place, which they found well stored with wine and provisions, and took care to preserve the town from violence." *Life of William III. by Harris, vol. 3. pp. 98-9.*

The former importance of Drogheda is sufficiently denoted by the number of its monastic foundations.

It is said that a *Priory for Canons regular*, following the rule of St. Augustin, was founded here, in which Cardinal Papiro held a synod, A. D. 1152; but, with the exception of that circumstance, little is known concerning its history.

The *Hospital of St. Mary* was founded early in the 13th century, for the aid and support of sick and infirm persons, by Ursus de Swemele, who, with the consent of his wife Christiana, granted, for that benevolent purpose, the whole of his estates in Ireland, among which were many houses and tenements in the town of Drogheda. The cross bearers, following the rule of St. Augustin, obtained possession of this hospital, after the decease of the founder. At the time of the suppression, the hospital and its appurtenances were granted to the Mayor of Drogheda. The buildings were situated on the outer side of the west gate of the town.

The *Priory of St. Laurence*, situated near the gate of that name, is said to have been founded by the mayor and citizens of Drogheda, to whom it was also granted on the dissolution of religious houses.

The *Dominican Friary*, under the invocation of St. Mary Magdalen, was founded by Lucas de Netterville, archbishop of Armagh, who commenced the buildings in the year 1224. This was a foundation of great celebrity, and general chapters of the order were held within its walls in the years 1290; 1308; and 1347. Among persons of distinction buried here may be noticed the founder; Patrick O'Scanlain, archbishop of Armagh; and Thomas, Earl of Desmond, who was beheaded at Drogheda, in the year 1467. This priory was situated in the north part of the town. The buildings were extensive, but are stated by King to have fallen to decay in the 15th century, in consequence of the "extreme poverty of the country, occasioned by incessant depredations, both of English rebels and Irish enemies." The Friary, and the chief part of its possessions, were granted for ever, by King Henry VIII. to Walter Dowdall and Edward Becke, but

belonged, in 1618, to Sir Ambrose Forth, Knt. Some remains of the buildings, comprising a tower, of lofty proportions, are still to be seen.

The *Gray Friary*, situated on the north banks of the river Boyne, was founded in the 13th century, either by the family of Darcy, or that of Plunket. This monastery, which was the head of a wardenship, was reformed by the Observantine friars in 1518. The buildings, and the whole of the possessions, were granted by Henry VIII. to Gerald Aylmer.

The *Augustinian Friary* was founded in the reign of Edward I. and probably by the family of Brandon. A general chapter of the order was held here, in 1359. The house and its appurtenances were granted, at the dissolution, to the mayor and corporation of Drogheda.

There were also two foundations, of which little is now to be ascertained, except that they were termed the *houses of St. James and St. Bennet*.

The above religious houses were all situated on the northern side of the Boyne. On the south side of that river, and in the part of Drogheda which is comprised in the county of Meath, were the two following monastic institutions.

The *Priory, or Hospital, of St. John*, for the order of cross-bearers; a cell to the priory of Kilmainham, near Dublin. Walter de Lacy, in the reign of King John, was a great benefactor to this establishment, and is usually esteemed its founder. This hospital, and great part of its ample possessions, were granted by Edward VI. to James Sedgrave.

The *Carmelite Friary*, founded by the inhabitants of Drogheda to the honour of the blessed Virgin, before the reign of the second Edward. The remains of the buildings are noticed in our account of St. Mary's Church.

The archbishops of Armagh had formerly a palace in this town, which is said, in the additions to Camden, to have been built by Archbishop Hampton, between the years 1613, and 1624.

Drogheda is divided into the two parishes of St. Peter and

St. Mary; the first of which is on the northern, and the latter on the southern, side of the river Boyne.*

The *Church of St. Peter* is a large and respectable structure, with a well-proportioned spire, erected after the designs of Mr. F. Johnston. It is recorded by Harris that the steeple of the antient church on this site, "supposed to be the highest then in the world! was thrown down by a violent tempest, which happened about midnight, on the 27th of January, 1548." In Stuart's history of Armagh we are told that a provincial synod was held in this church, on the 9th of June, 1460, by John Bole, abbot of St. Mary's monastery, at Navan. The family of Moore, Marquess of Drogheda, have here a place of burial, in which are interred, among other members of that noble house, Charles, the second viscount, distinguished for his gallantry in defending this town in the civil wars of the 17th century, who was killed at Portlester, in Meath, by a cannon-shot, on the 7th of August, 1643; and his wife, Alice, daughter of Adam Loftus, Vicount Ely, who died on the 13th of June, 1649.†

* In the MS. collections of Sir W. Betham it is noticed that the part Drogheda situated on the Meath side of the Boyne, was formerly governed by a seneschal and commonalty, distinct from the government of the Louth part of the town. It appears that great dissensions frequently arose between the inhabitants of the different sides of the river, which were sometimes productive of bloodshed. From the annals of the Dominican Friary we learn that Philip Bennet, a friar of that house, "did, on Corpus Christi day, 1412, invite the insurgents of both sides, first to a sermon in St. Peter's church, and afterwards to partake of a repast in the monastery of St. Mary Magdalen. His discourse, which, in the strongest terms, represented to his hearers how good it is to dwell together in unity, had the happiest effects; they all amicably withdrew, and accepting the preacher's second invitation, accompanied him to his monastery, where they were sumptuously and elegantly entertained, after which they agreed, jointly, to send supplicatory letters to the King (King Henry V.) who thereupon united the whole into one city." Archdall, apud Burke, p. 203.

† The death of this lady occurred in the following melancholy manner. Entering the town of Drogheda, on horseback, on the 10th of June, 1649, she fainted, and fell from her horse, at the first sight of St. Peter's church, in which her tender and gallant husband lay buried. In the fall she broke

The *Church of St. Mary*, which had originally appertained to the Carmelite Friary, sank, long since, to a state of utter ruin; fragments of walls, and a square tower, in the pointed style, constituting the sole memorials of its former extensive proportions and architectural character. On the decay of the church, a chapel, for divine service, was constructed amidst the ruins; but a new church has been lately erected for the use of this parish, with the aid of 600*l.* given, and 500*l.* lent, by the Board of First Fruits. The building was completed in 1810.

Much the greater part of the population of Drogheda is of the Roman Catholic persuasion, and there are several Roman Catholic chapels, and establishments coming under the denomination of monasteries and nunneries. The chapel of St. Peter is a spacious and handsome structure, built after the designs of Francis Johnston, Esq.*

This is a place of considerable trade. The river Boyne (here crossed by a bridge, communicating between the Louth and Meath sides of the town) is navigable up to the quay, for vessels of moderate burthen, although this is a bar-harbour. A navigable canal,

her leg, near the foot; and a mortification ensuing, she died three days afterwards, as stated in the text, and was interred by the side of her lord.

* The *abbey of Dominican nuns* at this place was established about the year 1722, in consequence of an application made to the court of Rome by Dr. Mac Mahon, R. C. Archbishop of Armagh. Catharine Plunket was appointed the first prioress. Many females, of very respectable families, have here received education; and several, after a regular novitiate, have taken the veil. In *Stuart's history of Armagh* it is remarked that the head of Dr. Oliver Plunket, R. C. Primate of Ireland, "even yet adorned with silvery-coloured hair, and the features still retaining the character of the archbishop's countenance," is preserved in this nunnery, with religious care. It will be recollected that Dr. Plunket was executed at Tyburn, June 1st, 1681, on the accusation of being concerned in a plot, which does not appear, on a dispassionate, but, alas! too tardy, investigation, to have had any real existence. In the same nunnery are a few interesting portraits, including that of Dr. Burke, or De Burgh, titular bishop of Ossory, and author of *Hibernica Dominicana*, which writer and book we have before mentioned in our account of the city of Kilkenny.

assisted by the same river, proceeds hence to Navan; thus facilitating the interchange between its corn, and other markets, and the interior of the country. Drogheda, which lies nearly opposite to Liverpool, is one of the principal marts for corn in Ireland. Indeed, most of the commerce of the fertile counties of Meath and Louth is carried on through the medium of this port. The exports chiefly consist of grain; flour; dowlas and coarse linen; spirituous liquor; live cattle; and provisions of various kinds. The imports are principally, groceries; coals; deals; porter; iron, and hardware. Here are, also, licensed distilleries, worked on a large scale. The provision market is well supplied with fish, and other articles for the table.

The corn-market is a spacious and eligible building, designed by F. Johnston, Esq. As other structures devoted to public uses, may be noticed the Tholsel, and large barracks for infantry. Here are almshouses, founded and endowed by Dr. Hugh Boulter, archbishop of Armagh, for the liberal purpose of maintaining the widows of poor clergymen. An annual stipend was, likewise, bestowed by the founder, for providing apprenticeships for the children of the widowed inmates of this asylum. In this town is, also, one of the schools founded by Erasmus Smith.

This borough sends one member to the imperial parliament, who is elected, without the interference of any predominating influence, by freemen and freeholders. It is internally governed by a mayor; recorder; two sheriffs; a town clerk; mayor of the staple; two justices of the peace; two coroners, and a law agent.* Drogheda gives the title of marquess, earl, and viscount, in the peerage of Ireland, to the family of Moore.

* The corporation of Drogheda attained considerable military distinction in the reign of Edward IV. In an engagement which took place at Malpas bridge, the Mayor of Drogheda, at the head of 500 archers, and 200 men armed with pole-axes, assisted in the defeat of O'Reilly and his confederates, who had committed great ravages in the county of Louth. In commemoration of this signal piece of service, King Edward gave to the town of Drogheda a sword, to be carried before the Mayor, and the sum of 20*l.* a year for its maintenance.

As eminent natives of Drogheda may be mentioned the following two scholars, whose works are noticed, among those of other "writers of Ireland," in the second volume of Ware's *Antiquities*, edited by Harris.—*William of Drogheda*, a writer on civil law, who received his education at Oxford, and was living in the year 1360. *James Miles*, who was born in this town, became a Franciscan friar, and lived for some time in the Irish college at Rome, whence he removed to Naples, where he died in 1639. He was author of two religious works, and also published a book on the art of music.

The number of houses and inhabitants, according to the returns made in 1813, was as follows. Houses 3,086, inhabitants 16,123. The number, as returned in 1821, was, houses, 3,463, inhabitants, 18,118. Thus, according to these statements, the increase in the number of inhabitants, between the years 1813 and 1821, has been 1,995.

On the banks of the River Boyne, to the west of Drogheda, was fought the important battle between the armies of King William III, and King James II, which is denominated after the river on whose borders it took place, and is known, throughout Europe, under the name of the **BATTLE OF THE BOYNE**. On the northern margin of the river, at the distance of rather more than two miles from Drogheda, is a stately obelisk, commemorative of that event. This fine pillar (of which, with the adjacent scenery, we present an engraved view) is composed of stone, and is about 150 feet in height. On the dies of the square pedestal are the inscriptions copied beneath.* The obelisk is founded on a rock, that rises abruptly from the river, and presents a site peculiarly happy for a

* Sacred to the glorious memory of King William the Third, who, on the 1st of July, 1690, passed the river, near this place, to attack James the Second, at the head of a popish army, advantageously posted on the south side of it; and did on that day, by a successful battle, secure to us and to our posterity, our liberty, laws and religion.

In consequence of this action, James the Second left this kingdom, and fled to France. This memorial of our deliverance was erected in the

pillar of celebration, as it affords, in itself, an emblem of solidity and perpetuity. At the back of the pillar the river-banks are acclivitous, and the surrounding scenery, pregnant with historical incident, is of a picturesque and attractive character.

The mind is subject to a crowd of reflections on viewing the scene of this celebrated battle, upon the issue of which, assuredly depended the temporary fortunes of a nation, and, perhaps, the moral and political state of a long succession of unborn ages. In our notice of this eventful action we refrain from encroaching on the province of the regular historian, and merely pursue the track of the contending parties, with a view of pointing out the *localities* of the conflict, for the satisfaction of the curious examiner. It will, however, be expected that we notice the decisive transactions of the day, and assemble in our pages some anecdotes of prominent interest.

When King James received intelligence at Dublin, in the month of June, 1690, that King William III. was landed in Ireland, and was on his march against him, he quitted the metropolis, at the head of six thousand veteran French troops, to join the rest of his forces, which had drawn from Dundalk and Ardee nearer to the capital. Their camp was situated on the southern, or county of Meath, side, of the river Boyne, having the town of Drogheda, which was possessed by the friends of James, at a short distance on its right. It extended in two lines upon the borders of the river, with a morass on the left, that was difficult of passage. The banks of the river were rugged throughout the chief part of

Ninth year of the reign of King George the Second, the first stone being laid by Lionel Sackville, Duke of Dorset, Lord-Lieutenant of the kingdom of Ireland, 1736.

This monument was erected by the grateful contribution of several Protestants of Great Britain and Ireland.—REINHARD, Duke of SCHOMBERG, in passing this river died, bravely fighting in defence of liberty.—First of July, MDCXC.

The circumstance of the first stone of the monument having been laid by the Duke of Dorset, is also recorded in four Latin lines, placed beneath the inscription of the principal compartment.

their line, and the fords, which lay directly before the camp, were deep and dangerous. The banks were also protected with breast-works, and many hedges and huts of peasantry were favourable to the defensive operations of infantry. On their rear were the village, and large but ruinous, church of Duleek; beyond which was a pass, well calculated for the purposes of a retreating army. Thus was their position highly advantageous, in every point of view.

King William encamped on the opposite banks, at the distance of about three miles to the eastward of the bridge of Slane. Whilst his troops were encamping, a shot of the enemy had nearly proved fatal to the king. Desirous of obtaining a near and accurate view of his opponents, William advanced, with some officers, to a rising ground, about two hundred paces to the west of the ford before the village of Old Bridge, and nearly opposite to the western extremity of the enemy's camp. He remained seated on this elevation for the greater part of an hour. But his motions had not been unheeded, and a party of about forty horse appeared in a ploughed field on the opposite side, concealing in their centre two field-pieces, which they placed, unobserved, at the corner of a hedge. At the instant of his remounting, one of the field pieces was discharged, and the shot killed a man and two horses, very near his person. The second discharge almost immediately succeeded, and the ball grazing on the bank of the river, rose, and passed across his right shoulder, tearing his coat and slightly injuring the flesh. His attendants crowded round him, and a general shout of triumph was raised in the Irish camp, under a persuasion that he had fallen. William, however, treated his wound with indifference, and afterwards rode through his camp, and dined in the field. But it was not without some pain and difficulty that he at first used his sword, on the following busy day.

At about the hour of nine at night, King William called a council of war, in which he declared his intention of crossing the river and attacking the enemy. The Duke of Schonberg, with whom caution was a characteristic, endeavoured to dissuade his majesty from a measure so bold and full of hazard, considering the strength of the

as he gained the opposite banks he addressed to the broken Huguenots these words, the last he uttered: "Allons, messieurs; voila vos persecuteurs." *Come on, gentlemen! There* (pointing to some regiments of papist French) *are your persecutors.* The Irish horse after their successful attack of the Huguenots, were themselves broken, and chiefly cut to pieces, in the vicinity of Old Bridge, by the Dutch and Enniskilleners. The small residue of this party, about sixteen in number, escaping, with furious haste, from the slaughter, were mistaken for friends by the Huguenots, and were accordingly suffered to pass. In passing they gave the duke two wounds on the head, neither of which, however, was of a serious nature. But his own men, detecting their error, rashly fired upon the Irish whilst still entangled in the skirmish, and one of their balls struck the duke either in the head or neck, and caused his immediate death.* About the same time fell, in another part of the field, Walker, distinguished for his enthusiastic bravery in the defence of Londonderry.

King William, accompanied by the Prince of Denmark, passed the river, with the left wing of the horse, consisting of English, Dutch, and Danes, at a ford little more than one mile to the west of Drogheda. This was a dangerous pass,

and the disorder of the French, spread a general alarm, and the want of cavalry struck the minds even of the peasants, who were but spectators of the battle, so forcibly, that a general cry of "*Horse! Horse!*" was suddenly raised, was mistaken for an order to "*Halt,*" surprised and confounded the centre, was conveyed to the right wing, and for a while retarded their pursuit." *Lel. Hist. v. iii. p. 566,*

* The Duke of Schonberg, or Schomberg, was in the eighty-second year of his age, when he thus unfortunately fell, one hour too soon; for his gallant spirit would have been resigned on a genial bed, if he had expired amidst the shouts of victory. The greater part of his lengthened life had been passed in war; and Callemote, who fell in the same glorious day, had been the constant follower of his fortunes and friend of his person. In regard to the mistake which led to the death of the duke, it may not be superfluous to observe that it appears to have proceeded from a neglect of the precautionary order of King William, who had directed his men each to wear the distinguishing badge of a green bough, or sprig, in the hat or cap. The men on the side of James wore, in their hats, pieces of white-paper.

and the landing so difficult that the horse on which he rode could not gain a ready footing; and, dismounting, he received the assistance of his attendants.

King James, throughout this eventful day, was stationed on the hill of Donore, distant from Drogheda two miles towards the south-west. Here, surrounded by his guards, he stood as a spectator rather than a general, whilst the crown of three kingdoms was the subject of contest between two great armies.

When King William had securely reached the hostile bank of the river, he rode to the head of his squadrons, and presented to them the animating spectacle of a royal general, prepared, with sword in hand, to share in all their dangers. The main body of the Irish retreated towards Donore; but there (the very *name* of king proving a "tower of strength") they faced about, for the protection of the quiescent James, then standing in peril on the hill; and charged with so much fury that the English were obliged to give ground. William, preserving perfect equanimity in all fortunes, rode up to the Enniskilleners, and, with the brevity of a soldier at a moment of exigency, asked them "*what they would do for him?*" Their chief officer explained to them that it was the king who proposed to head them; and, advancing with alacrity, they proved themselves to be men worthy of such a leader. After receiving with them the enemy's fire, William, who was seen in nearly every part of the field, led up other troops, anxious to inspire all with a portion of his own thirst for glory.*

The event of the day is well known. After many of those varieties of fortune that are common to every field, in which the numbers and courage of the contending parties bear any resemblance of equality, the Irish infantry were finally repulsed. Hamilton, an officer of great bravery and skill, made a last and des-

* Some idea of the turmoil and perils of a heady fight may be conveyed by an anecdote, showing a danger to which the king was subject at this period of the conflict. Whilst mingling in the thickest part of the battle, one of his own soldiers, ignorant of his person, presented a pistol at his head. William calmly put the weapon aside, and said, "What! do not you know your friends?"

perate effort, at the head of some troops of horse; but his force was routed and himself taken prisoner.* Informed by those about him that he was in danger of being surrounded, James now quitted Donore, and retired to Duleek, at the head of Sarsfield's regiment. His army followed, and effected a retreat, allowed by all to be admirably conducted, through the pass of Duleek. The loss of the Irish was said to have been 1500, and that of the king's army not more than 500. It is obvious that great bravery, if not equal steadiness, was displayed by the defeated power; and posterity will long remember the subsequent speech of Sarsfield, as recorded by Burnet: "*Change kings, and we would fight the battle over again with you.*"

From the above brief narrative it will be apparent that the action extended from the bridge and village of Slane, on the west, to the immediate vicinity of the town of Drogheda, in an opposite direction; a distance of about seven miles. The river has here a winding, or tortuous, course. Many remains of earth-works, and other traces of military operations, are still to be seen, at several points occupied by the opposed armies.

Within the county of Louth, and in the neighbourhood of the tract in which the above far-famed battle raged with its greatest fierceness, are now the handsome mansion and smiling demesne of Mr. Balfour. This seat is termed **TOWNLEY HALL**, and is distant from Drogheda about three miles. The house, which is cased with beautiful stone, and contains many spacious apartments, was erected about the year 1795, after the designs of Francis Johnston, Esq. The grounds are well planted, and in high preservation.

BRAULIKU, sometimes written **BEWLY**, situated near the mouth

* When Hamilton was brought before William, as a prisoner, the king asked him whether the Irish would fight any more? "Upon my honour," replied this faithless emissary, "I believe they will." The king looked on him contemptuously, but made no other answer than the bitter comment, "*Your honour! Your honour!*" It will be recollected that Hamilton had treacherously betrayed the trust reposed in him by King William, by whom, at his own investigation, he was commissioned to negotiate with Tyrconnel, then lord deputy in the interest of James.

of the river Boyne, at the distance of two miles from Drogheda, afforded a seat to the distinguished family of Plunket, or Plunkett, at a period antecedent to the entry of the Anglo-Normans, and formed the constant residence, in many after ages, of the elder branch of that family. It has been supposed that the house of Plunket is of Danish extraction, but no record exists to prove the time at which the family first entered Ireland. John Plunket, ancestor of Lord Dunsany, was seated at Beaulieu, and died here, in 1082. His descendant, also named John, together with Alicia his wife, obtained a licence of mortmain, in the reign of Henry III. to grant a plot of ground as the site for a church to be founded at Beaulieu, with an attached burial ground. That church having sunk beneath the wear of years, a new structure has been recently erected, with the aid of 600*l.* given for that purpose by the Board of First Fruits. It is observed, by Mr. Lodge and his continuator, that "the numerous branches of this family have extended into many parts of the kingdom (particularly the counties of Meath, Dublin, and Louth) and participated in almost every honour which the crown could bestow." In our account of Eastmeath we have observed that there are now seated in that district, two branches of this antient family, ennobled by the titles of Earl of Fingall and Baron of Dunsany. In this county we have also to notice a third branch partaking of the peerage, namely Plunket, *Baron of Louth*.

The village of TERFECKAN, or TERMON-FECKAN, distant from Drogheda four miles, towards the N.E. is situated on a small river, which takes its rise in this part of the county, and enters the Irish sea at a short distance from the village. A monastery was founded here, as is believed, in the year 665; but scarcely any traces of its history are now to be discovered. A nunnery was, likewise, founded at this place, by the M'Mahons, for regular canovesses, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary. The prioress and nuns were confirmed in their possessions by a bull of Pope Celestine III. dated in the year 1195. This nunnery was surrendered in the thirty-third of Henry VIII. The principal interest of the village

arises from the mouldering ruins of its castle, which was formerly the occasional residence of the archbishops of Armagh. The time at which this castellated edifice was erected, does not appear; but, from the remains, which comprise a large tower, of square proportions, and a circular turret, forming part of the out-works, it was evidently calculated for defence as well as primatial dignity. Such, indeed, was the character of many episcopal palaces in the middle ages of Irish and British history; instances of which occur at Swords, in this country, and Durham, in the north of England. The archbishops usually resided here for three months in the year. The great *USHER* was the last primate who honoured this palace with his presence; and, since the time of that distinguished prelate, the buildings have sunk into a state of unheeded decay. In the neighbourhood are vestiges of many other castellated dwellings, of inferior magnitude.

At *Drumshallon*, distant three miles from Drogheda, towards the north, St. Patrick founded a monastery for canons regular. The parochial Church was afterwards erected on part of its site.

MELLIFONT ABBEY, distant four miles and a half from Drogheda, towards the north-west, was formerly one of the most celebrated monastic foundations in this part of Ireland, and was afterwards distinguished as the principal seat, for many ages, of the Moore family, *barons of Mellifont*, and earls of Drogheda, since exalted to a marquisate in the Irish peerage. Although few indications now remain of its antient grandeur, the history of this place occupies so prominent a station in the topographical annals of the county of Louth, that the fallen fortunes of its monastic turrets and baronial halls demand an ample investigation.

The Abbey of Mellifont was founded by Donough O'Carrol, Prince of Uriel, for Cistercian monks, in the year 1142. The first inmates were sent by St. Bernard, from his own abbey of Clairvaux. The consecration of the church, in 1157, was attended with very impressive solemnities. The Archbishop of Armagh, then apostolic legate, and many princes and bishops were present. On this occasion *Dervorgilla*, the faithless wife of Dermot, King

of Leinster, attended personally, to express shame and repentance for her misconduct in the early part of life. Here, soliciting forgiveness of her injured country, she knelt at the altar, and made a penitential offering of sixty ounces of gold, a golden chalice, and rich paraments, which were laid by her on the nine altars of the church. She subsequently took the veil, and died here in 1193.

Hugh de Lacy was an eminent benefactor to this house, and the abbot and monks were confirmed in their large possessions by Henry II., and several succeeding kings. The abbot was a lord of parliament, and the intrigues and disputes, for possession of the chair of abbacy, proceeded to such an extremity, in the early part of the 14th century, that, A. D. 1306, the temporalities were seized into the hands of the king. In 1322, it was determined that no person should be admitted as a member of this abbey, before he had made oath that he was not of English descent. Such a revulsion, however, took place in the tide of politics, before the expiration of the same century, that, in 1380, it was enacted by parliament that no *mere Irishman* should be allowed to make his profession in this abbey.

Among the illustrious persons here interred, were Donough O'Carrol, the founder, 1168; Murchard O'Carrol, prince of Uriel, 1189; Thomas O'Connor, archbishop of Armagh, 1201; Lucas Netterville, archbishop of Armagh, 1227; and David O'Brogan, bishop of Clogher, who had been a monk of this abbey, 1267.

Richard Conter, the last abbot, surrendered the abbey in 1540, and retired on a pension of 40*l. per annum*. A lease of the dissolved abbey, and its extensive possessions in this county, was granted by Queen Elizabeth, to Sir Edward Moore; and the same were afterwards granted, in fee, to his son, Sir Gerald, or Garrett, the first Lord Moore. Sir Edward fixed his residence at Mellifont, and converted the abbey buildings, with additions, into a spacious and defensible mansion, in which his descendants continued to reside until their removal to Monasterevan, in the county of Kildare.

The lord deputy and council, in their estimate of the fine to be paid by Sir Edward, in consideration of his lease, observes,

that *this house, standing upon the Irish country, was chargeable to defend*. From its situation on the borders of Ulster, it was, indeed, exposed to frequent attacks from the natives and discontented party in that quarter. But Sir Edward Moore had entered Ireland, in the time of Elizabeth, as a soldier of fortune. He had borne a conspicuous share in the wars of that era, and was contented with residing in a garrisoned mansion, surrounded by the lineaments of warfare, so that he lived in splendid plenty, with the flattering view of becoming founder of a house. Some idea may be formed respecting the character of his isolated enjoyments, and the gloom of his territorial dignity, when we observe, in the words of his family pedigree, that, in 1599, *he and Sir Francis Stafford were the only English housekeepers in the county of Louth; all the lands being wasted by the Ulster rebels*.

Sir Gerald, or Garrett, Moore, son of the above knight, succeeded his father at Mellifont, and here received, in March, 1602 (the juncture of Queen Elizabeth's death) the submission of Tyrone, which was afterwards renewed to King James I. by that turbulent commander. For this and other services, he was, in 1616, created Baron Moore, *of Mellifont*. In 1621, he was further advanced in the Irish peerage, by the title of Viscount Moore, of Drogheda.

We have already noticed the gallantry with which Charles, the second viscount, assisted in the defence of Drogheda, in the wars under King Charles I., and the unfortunate death of that nobleman, from a cannon shot. On Sunday, the 24th of November, 1641, whilst his lordship was absent from home, on the military business of the state, his house of Mellifont was suddenly beset by 1300 rebels, who succeeded in entering, after experiencing a vigorous resistance, in which the besieged expended their last flask of powder. The garrison consisted of no more than twenty-four musketeers, and fifteen horsemen, the latter of whom cut their way through the enemy, and reached Drogheda. The musketeers yielded no quarter; but twenty-eight persons, in the whole, were destroyed, when the rebels rushed into the mansion. One hundred and twenty of the assailants fell during the attack.

Of this splendid abbey, and spacious defensible mansion, scarcely enough vestiges now remain to "point a moral or adorn a tale." The halls in which the lords Moore banquetted, with their military retainers and armed guests, are levelled with the green-sward, and their former existence is to be ascertained only by the page of history, and the lingering tales of tradition. Some traces of walls and towers, denoting much former strength, are, however, still visible. Of the religious buildings, the remains are almost equally few and humble. The curious examiner looks in vain for the site of that altar at which *Dervorgilla* shed repentant tears, and, kneeling, offered her chalice of gold and rich paraments! Some fragments of a chapel, having a groined roof, may yet be seen;* and, adjoining those ruins, is a singular structure, in rather better preservation. This was an octangular building, with an arched entrance at each face. A considerable part of this fabric is now demolished, and it is difficult, from the remainder, to conjecture its former appropriation. An engraving of the building, in a more perfect state than at present, is given by Wright, in the *Louthiana*. That author informs us, that it was locally called an octagonal *bath*, but justly remarks, that it most likely constituted a baptistery. Mr. Archdall asserts that there was a cistern on the top, from which water was conveyed, by means of pipes, to different offices in the abbey.

At *MONASTERBOICE*, distant from Drogheda about three miles, are some ruins, of a very interesting character. An abbey was founded at this place by St. Boetius, who died in the year 521. Two former professors are recorded, as persons eminently skilled in the science of antiquities. These were *Flan*, who died in 1052; and *Flan Mainisbreach*, in 1056; if, indeed, by those two names

* In the *Louthiana* is an engraved view of "a fine old Gothic doorway," leading into this chapel, which was composed of blue marble, "richly ornamented and gilt," but is now no more. Wright says that he heard "it was sold, and going to be taken to pieces;" but Sir Richard Hoare professes to have been told that it was played for as a stake at piquet, and lost!

we are not to understand the same person: No annals of this religious house are preserved after the year 1117. The ruins of the buildings present few architectural vestiges, but are of a simple and massive construction, that evinces considerable antiquity. The greater part was probably restored soon after the year 1097, at which time the abbey was destroyed by fire.

Contiguous to one division of the ruins on the north-west, is a round, or pillar-tower, partially dilapidated at the top, the altitude of which is 110 feet in the highest part. The door-case, which is arched, and built of free-stone, is five feet six inches in height, twenty-two inches wide, and six feet from the present level of the ground. Internally the diameter of the tower is nine feet, and it is divided into five stories by bands of stone, slightly projecting.

In the vicinity of the ruins, are two large and curious crosses, one eighteen feet in height, and the other about sixteen. The most remarkable of these is called *St. Boyce's cross*, and has been termed, but without any reason, the most antient religious relique now extant in Ireland. Both are crowded with sculpture, and are beautiful examples of antient art in this species of ornamented fabric. The cross popularly named after St. Boyce, is situated between the two divisions of ruin, or chapels, and has been engraved, but after inaccurate drawings, in Wright's *Louthiana*. The sculpture is executed in compartments, and is now much decayed, but has represented, among other subjects, the Saviour; St. Patrick, having at his feet an angel with a pair of scales; St. Boyce; and Adam and Eve, with the tree between them. It is said by Archdall, after the notes of Dr. Molynaux, that some letters, to be traced on this fabric, formed "the word Muredach, who was for some time king of Ireland, and died, A. D. 534." Dr. Ledwich observes, that we are not, from such a circumstance, to suppose that the cross was erected, and the inscription made, in the sixth century, "for neither the letters nor language of that time would be intelligible now, as the impossibility of deciphering the Brehon laws, of a much later date, abundantly proves." The

inscription was on the base or foot of the cross, and is now nearly illegible.*

The second cross, which is on the south side of the burial-yard, is inferior in point of height, but is equally rich in sculptural decoration.

The cemetery attached to these abbey-ruins, is still a favourite place of catholic burial. It is noticed in the *Louthiana* that a man digging a grave, near St. Boyce's cross, found, buried in the earth, some wedges of silver, and many pieces of Anglo-Saxon silver coin.

COLLON, the seat of the Right Hon. John Foster, Lord Oriel, which forms the most conspicuous ornament of this county, is situated on the south-western border of Louth, at the distance of about six miles from Drogheda. The mansion on this estate is handsome and spacious, but the great attractions of Collon proceed from the beauty of the demesne; the extent, variety, and excellence of the plantations; and the admirable improvements effected in the whole contiguous tract of country.

The solid value, and ornamental charms, of this place, have been entirely created by the energies, talent, and good taste of the distinguished family to which it now belongs. When Anthony Foster, lord chief baron of the exchequer in Ireland, father of the present noble proprietor, first selected this estate as a residence, about the middle of the last century, he found the whole country, as we are told by Mr. Young, "a waste sheep walk, covered chiefly with heath, with some dwarf furze and fern." The judicious measures he adopted, in ameliorating a tract, so repulsive to ordinary improvers, and the perseverance with which he pursued his object, are stated, at considerable length, by the writer last quoted.† Fortu-

* This inscription, as copied by the late Mr. Beauford, and engraved after his copy in the fourth vol. of Gough's Camden, should be read thus:

Onn dorr me deachair ndern am. d. m. h. jo 88.

For On dar me deachair nderna.

i. e. By this stone, or cross, I shall go to second life. A. D. 1388.

† From the account presented by Mr. Young in his Tour, we learn that the chief baron, unable to tolerate the view of so barren a property

nately, the correct taste and munificent spirit of this "Prince of Improvers," as the Chief Baron Foster has been emphatically termed by an honest encomiast, descended to his son and heir the present Lord Oriel;* under whose auspices the plantations have

"determined to attempt the improvement of an estate of 5000 acres, till then deemed irreclaimable. He encouraged the tenants, by every species of persuasion and expense; but they had so ill an opinion of the land, that he was forced to begin with 2 or 3000 acres in his own hands. He did not, however, turn out the people, but kept them in, to see the effect of his operations. He had, for several years, twenty-seven lime-kilns, burning stone. The culm used here was brought from Milford Haven. He had 450 cars employed by these kilns, and paid £700. a year for culm. The stone was quarried by from sixty to eighty men, regularly at that work. Whilst this vast business of liming was going forwards, roads were also making (which, it may be added, are now amongst the best in Ireland.) He enclosed the whole tract, in fields of about ten acres each, the banks being planted with quick and forest trees. Of these fences 30,000 perches were made. In order to create a new race of tenants, he fixed upon the most active and industrious labourers; bought them cows, &c. and advanced money for them to begin with little farms, leaving them to pay it as they could. His great object was to show the tenantry, as soon as possible, the improvements in agriculture to be effected by the modes he adopted, in order to set them to work themselves; and, when they proved that they understood the value of the lessons imparted, he built many new and comfortable farm-dwellings, all of lime and stone." The chief baron also commenced those plantations, which have since been extended with so much judgment and success. "This great improver," adds the agricultural tourist, "has made a barren wilderness smile with cultivation, planted it with people, and made those people happy!" Abridged from *Young's Tour in Ireland*, Vol. 1, pp. 146—150.

* The Right Hon. John Foster, who long represented the county of Louth in Parliament, and was for many years speaker of the Irish House of Commons, married Margaretta-Amelia Burgh, daughter of Thomas Burgh, of Birt, in the county of Kildare, Esq. which lady (who deceased in January, 1824), was, on the 5th of June, 1790, created Baroness Oriel, of Collon; and on the 7th of November, 1797, Vicountess Ferrard, of Oriel, in her own right, with remainder to the male issue of her husband. The Right Hon. John Foster, her ladyship's husband, was created Baron Oriel, of Ferrard, county of Louth, in the English Peerage, July 14th, 1821. The family of Foster was formerly seated at Dunleer, in this county.

been greatly augmented, and the whole demesne brought to its present state of perfection.

Collon is situated in a fine hilly tract of country, commanding, at different points, rich and diversified views, comprising a wide district, smiling in cultivation; the spacious bay of Carlingford, and the mountains usually denominated from that place; together with those of Mourne, more lofty, grand, and various in outline. The plantations, which, as we have already suggested, constitute the most prominent subjects of admiration in this noble demesne, cover nearly six hundred acres of ground, and contain trees of every description that is suited to the climate of Ireland. The consummate skill with which their growth has been nurtured, is evinced by their healthy and flourishing condition. It is, indeed, uniformly acknowledged that few gentlemen are qualified to dispute with Lord Oriel the palm, as amateur arborists; and it would be superfluous for us to expatiate on the value, in a national point of view, of such an example, and incitement to emulation, in a country which has suffered gradual denudation, not more from the unstable character of its political hemisphere, and other obvious causes, than from a want of judgment in those who undertook the task of planting, on a large scale. To persons who have a taste for this delightful and profitable branch of rural oeconomy, the plantations at Collon present at once a school of improvement and a theatre of refined pleasure. The great beauty of the woods, and the rich and picturesque growth of innumerable individuals among the various species here preserved in a genial asylum, cannot fail to captivate every spectator, however deficient in a knowledge of the natural history of trees, and the art and care required to preserve them from disease, and to elicit their full display of commanding grandeur or simple beauty.*

* A recent tourist (Mr. J. C. Curwen) who surveyed these plantations with an experienced and judicious eye, notices, as objects which forcibly arrested his attention, among the forest trees, "a weeping larch, and an oak peculiar to Ireland, that has the same drooping propensity." The luxuriant growth of the Rhododendrons, at Collon, surprise every visitor. Mr. Curwen observes that he "measured round the spreading

In the vicinity of the pavilion, a residence so termed on this extensive demesne, is a winter garden, containing an unrivalled assemblage of the different species and varieties of shrubs.

The village of Collon attracts notice by the neatness of its cottages, or cabins, which are, in most instances, white washed, and roofed with slate. Here, as throughout the whole of the surrounding country, the beneficial effects of watchful and judicious patronage are evident in every particular. A cotton manufactory, and bleaching-green, aid in providing profitable encouragement to the industry of the inhabitants. A dispensary, and a school for gratuitous instruction in the Lancasterian method, have been established by Lord Oriel. A small stream passes through the village, and is crossed with a stone bridge. The church, a handsome building, in imitation of the antient English style of architecture, has been erected in recent years, chiefly after the designs, and under the superintendence, of the late Rev. Daniel Augustus Beaufort, L.L.D. who was long rector of this parish, and resident in Collon. Dr. Beaufort, it will be recollected, published a "Civil and Ecclesiastical Map of Ireland," and also a "Memoir" of that map, in one thin quarto volume. In addition to those literary labours, he had, we believe, made some topographical collections towards a survey of the county of Louth.

The town and manor of Collon, formerly constituted part of the possessions appertaining to the abbey of Mellifont. In the year 1229, King Henry II. granted to the abbot and convent a market, in "their town of Collan," to be held weekly, on the Tuesday; and, in 1349, Edward III. granted to them free warren, in this, among their other manors. From the annals of Mellifont, relating to the 15th century, as contained in the *Monasticon Hibernicum*, we also learn that the religious owners of this town "erected here divers burgesses, and presented to them certain houses and lands in the town, under the name of burgages, on the express condition of constant residence;" which condition, it

branches of one, about ten feet high, and found their circumference to be eighty feet." *Observations on the State of Ireland, &c. vol. ii. p. 294.*

appears, the burgesses of Collon neglected to perform. By an inquisition taken in 1612, it is shewn that the abbot and convent possessed, in this parish, a water-mill, and twenty-three acres of land, together with the tithes, and the annual rent of £26: 13: 4, proceeding from the town of Collon.

ATHERDEC, more frequently termed, by a popular abbreviation, ARDEC, is a small but neat post and fair town, giving name to a barony in the southern part of this county, and also affording the title of baron, in the Irish peerage, to the family of Brabazon, earls of Meath. Roger de Pipard, or Pippard, obtained a grant of this manor and town, shortly after the entry of the Anglo-Normans. This place constituted, for many ages, the principal seat of a branch of the Pipard family, once so greatly distinguished, and wealthy, in the province of Leinster, and in several of the midland counties of England. Roger de Pipard and his descendants bore the title of lords of Atherdec, and resided here in a strong but gloomy castle, still existing, and now used as a gaol. The manor was surrendered to King Edward I. by Ralph de Pipard, and was afterwards granted by Edward II. to Sir John Birmingham, created first earl of Louth by that sovereign.

This town was captured, and most of the inhabitants put to the sword, by Edward Bruce, when that invader harassed this part of Ireland in the year 1315. Situated on the frontier of the English pale, it was exposed to the frequent assaults of the northern Irish. The town was burnt, on the invasion of the pale by a force from Ulster, under O'Nial, in 1538. It was also surrendered, in 1641, to troops from the same quarter, under Sir Phelim O'Nial, united with the disaffected party in the north of Leinster. Sir Henry Tichburne marched to its relief, and after a spirited contest, which took place at the distance of about one mile from Ardec, and a skirmish at the foot of the bridge, succeeded in expelling the enemy.

Monastic foundations, in the vicinage of the baronial seat, were deemed as essential to the dignity, as they were estimable in the pious consideration, of a potent family in the middle ages.

We, accordingly, find such acts of munificence to have been liberally practised by the antient Anglo-Norman lords of this town.

The *Crouched Friary* of Ardee, was founded by Roger de Pipard, A. D. 1207, "for the health of his own soul, and the souls of his wife Alicia, his father, William, his mother, Joan, and his brethren, Gilbert and Peter;" and placed by him under the invocation of St. John. George Dowdall, the last prior, surrendered this Friary, and its ample possessions, in the 31st of Henry VIII. This ecclesiastic was afterwards elevated to the primacy of all Ireland, and, in the 1st year of Queen Mary, obtained a grant, for life, of the monastery over which he had formerly presided, and its valuable appurtenances. The same estates were afterwards granted, by King James I. in the year 1612, to Sir Garrett Moore, ancestor of the Marquis of Drogheda. There were eight chapels, in different parts of the county of Louth, appropriated to this affluent friary, or hospital. Scarcely any remains of the buildings of the Crouched Friary are now to be discovered. A part of the church was fitted up, and long used as a parochial place of worship; but a new church has been lately erected.

A *White*, or *Carmelite Friary* was, also, founded at this place and probably by the Pipard family, to which Ralph Pipard was an eminent benefactor in the reign of Edward I. In 1315, a chapter of the order was held in this friary; but, in the same year, it experienced a dreadful calamity from the ravages of the Scots and Irish, under Edward Bruce. By those ferocious assailants the church of the Carmelites, filled with men, women, and children, who had fled thither for refuge, was burned to the ground, with all its helpless inmates! The buildings, however, were quickly restored; for, in 1320, a provincial chapter was held here, and another was held in 1325, at which many regulations were adopted for the promotion of ecclesiastical discipline. Synods were, likewise, held at this place in 1489, and 1504. The latter assembly was removed hither from Drogheda, on account of the plague then raging in that town; but was abruptly broken up at this church also, as the contagion, probably conveyed by the persons attending

the synod, was communicated to Ardee, with fatal quickness. This priory was dissolved in the 31st of Henry VIII.

Castle-guard is the name given to a large, and curious, artificial mount at Ardee. This elevation was apparently designed for the purposes of inhabitation and defence, and appears to have been occupied, at different times, by distinct races of people. An elevation and ground plan of Castle-guard are given by Wright in the *Louthiana*, and in the same work we are informed that "the perpendicular height of the mount, from the bed of its foundation, is nearly 90 feet, and the depth of the main trench betwixt 30 and 40. The circumference at the top is not less than 140, and round the foundation upwards of 600 feet." The mount is encompassed by a double ditch and vallum. On the summit are the foundations of what appears to have been an octangular tower, having an outer wall, or rampart, on every side. An earthen raised path crosses the ditches at the base of the mount, and leads to the works on its summit.

In the same neighbourhood are the ruins of the small church of *Millastown*, which are shewn as a curiosity, on account of the singular position of a part of the building, that now stands transversely and unconnected, at some distance from a vacancy at the end, which it appears to have formerly occupied. The peasantry, prone to take the shortest way of accounting for surprising circumstances, assert, that it was blown from its former situation, in a violent storm!

The principal seat in the vicinity of the above town, is that of the Ruxton family, enriched with a handsome and well-wooded demesne.

In this part of the county are several buildings, nearly of a similar character, two engravings of which, but after indifferent drawings, are given by Wright, in the *Louthiana*. They are square, or oblong, and isolated towers, which scarcely merit the appellation of castles, but were designed for inhabitation and resistance in the middle ages. Although their exterior possess little to interest the spectator, an examination of these cheerless fabrics is calculated to afford some curious materials towards a history of

the manners in past times. They are firmly built, and have usually at the angles small towers, either round or square. The windows are few, and situated high in the buildings. On this paucity of apertures, and in the massy strength of the pile, the designers appear to have placed their chief reliance for defence. As they were calculated to elude surprise, rather than to withstand regular assault, the inhabitants were provided with places of retreat, resembling, in gloom and humility, the dens of savage animals which make war with every weaker creature, and find an enemy in each strong hand, or subtle head. Underneath most of these buildings are worked vaults and caves, from nine to twelve feet square, opening to each other, and usually communicating with a long subterranean passage, that, probably, afforded a distant egress to the surface, on some spot rendered obscure by art.

Such were the habitations, in the 14th and 15th centuries, of that class of the people of Ireland which then occupied the station in society now filled by the country gentleman, residing in a villa with windows at every eligible point, for the admission of good air and the command of fine prospects. The spectator sighs to reflect that the gentility of a land should ever have been reduced, by party feuds, and a want of strength, or care, in the head of government, to a lot thus sordid and derogatory to the dignity of the human faculties.

The two buildings of the above description, engraved in the Louthiana, are termed *Milltown Castle*, about four miles south of Dundalk; and the *Castle of Killingcool*, midway between Dundalk and Atherdee; near which is a third, named *Castle Derr*. Many structures, nearly similar, occur in different parts of the country. Mr. Wright observes, "that this manner of building is said to be borrowed from the Spaniards, who, formerly, were visitors of Ireland." But such an opinion is so completely void of foundation, that it is not entitled to any serious remark.

BARMEATH, the fine seat of Sir Edward Bellew, Bart. is situated in the vicinity of the decayed town of *Dunleer*, at the distance of seven miles from Drogheda, towards the north-east. The

name by which this estate is distinguished, is said to have been bestowed on it in consequence of the effectual resistance here made by the Bellew family, to an armed force issuing from the county of Meath, under the command of one of Cromwell's officers. This is one of the finest seats in a district highly enriched by the dwellings of nobility and gentry. The mansion is spacious, and comprises some apartments conspicuous for a rich but chaste style of embellishment. The demesne is of great extent, and abounds in natural beauties, duly improved by the liberal, but not exuberant, exercise of art.

The family of Bellew came from Normandy with William the Conqueror, filling the high stations of marshals in his army. Of this name, so greatly celebrated in the martial annals of the middle ages, have been reckoned eighteen knights-banneret, in succession; and the rolls of parliament, in both this and the sister country, produce several peers of the same distinguished lineage, whose honours, either through failure of issue, or attainder in the civil wars, have, in common with those of many other potent houses, become extinct. A branch of the family accompanied Earl Strongbow to Ireland; and we find one of the name married to the daughter of Hugh de Lacy, the younger. The order of the garter being extended to Ireland, Richard Bellew was, in 1439, elected to that honour; and, in 1666, the Irish peerage of the family was revived, by the title of Baron Bellew, of Duleek, in the county of Meath.

In 1639, Sir John Bellew, of Willystown, knight of the shire for Louth, married Mary, daughter of Robert Dillon, of Clonbrock, in the county of Galway, Esq. by whom he had issue Sir Patrick Bellew, of Barmeath, Bart. and Christopher Bellew, of Mount Bellew, in the county of Galway, Esq. From these brothers descend, in an uninterrupted succession and direct line, the families of Barmeath and Mount Bellew; both possessing extensive estates, and enjoying high consideration, in their respective counties. The present baronet succeeded his father, the late Sir Patrick Bellew, in the year 1794.

At the distance of about one mile to the north-east of Dunleer

is **ROKEBY HALL**. This mansion stands on an estate purchased of Lord Derby by the late Richard Robinson, D.D. Baron Rokeby, and archbishop of Armagh. The house was erected by the primate, after the designs of Francis Johnston, Esq. and was named after Rokeby, in Yorkshire, the seat of the family of Robinson, sold by Sir Thomas Robinson, Bart. elder brother of the prelate. After the decease of his grace, in 1794; this estate became the property of his nephew, Archdeacon Robinson, who resided here for a short time, but is said to have quitted Ireland in consequence of the alarm created in his family by the unhappy rebellion of 1798. Rokeby Hall is now, we believe, in the hands of a farmer, and the chief apartments are let furnished to casual inmates. The Church of **CLONMORE**, in this vicinity, and on the Rokeby estate, was also erected at the expense of the primate, after the designs, and under the immediate superintendence of, the able architect noticed above.*

In the parish of Clonmore is a decayed castle of the Verdon family, former proprietors of this estate; and here are, also, some remains of the antient church.

LOUTH, a small and decayed town, is situated near the north-west border of the county to which it imparts a name. The former celebrity of this place, and the most memorable events in its history, are connected with an *Abbey*, founded here at an early period, and, as is said, by St. Patrick himself.

The abbey of Louth was placed under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, the first abbot being St. Mocteus, or Mochtalugh, a Briton, who died on the 19th of August, A. D. 534, on the anniversary of which day his feast is commemorated. The school of this abbey ranked amongst the most celebrated in Ireland, when the country was conspicuous for excellence of

* We are informed by Mr. Johnston that the buildings erected by Primate Robinson, in the county of Louth, consisting of the mansion and church mentioned in the text; many farm houses on the estate; and the church of Ballymakenny, near Drogheda; cost about £30,000; but that if erected at the present time, the expense could not be less than £40,000. These buildings were erected between the years 1785, and 1794.

scholastic discipline; and produced, as we are told, no less than one hundred bishops and three hundred presbyters. The abbey and town were repeatedly pillaged by the Danes, in the 9th century; and those marauders obtained a settlement at Louth in the century following. This religious house was thrice destroyed by fire in the 12th century; and, in the year 1148, a PRIORY FOR REGULAR CANONS was erected on the site of the antient buildings, by O'Carrol, prince of Orgeal, and Edan, bishop of Clogher; which prelate was interred here, in 1182.

The Priory of Louth rose to great affluence and distinction; and a slight review of its fortunes will be found to implicate the remaining principal events in the history of this town.—In the year 1242, a chapter was held here by the Archbishop of Armagh, at which were present all the abbots and priors of the regular canons in this kingdom. Whilst Ireland was harassed by the invasion of Edward Bruce, that adventurer and his Scottish officers, were, at several times, entertained in this priory, for which offence, however, the prior obtained pardon from the king, on paying a fine of £40. A general chapter of the order was again held here, on the feast of Pentecost, 1325. John Wile, the last prior, voluntarily quitted possession, in the year 1540, and received, for his docility of conduct, the reward of a pension for life. The prior of this house was a lord of parliament. The buildings, and ample estates, were granted, at the suppression, to the Plunket family.

LOUTH-HALL, distant about three miles from the town, or village, of Louth, is the mansion of Thomas Plunket, *Baron of Louth*. This residence is situated in the parish of Tallanston, which place has afforded a seat to the ancestors of his lordship since the latter part of the 15th century. The demesne is extensive, and surrounded by a highly cultivated tract of country. Lord Louth is descended from the eldest branch of the house of Plunket, as are also the Earl of Fingall and Lord Dunsany, whose titles and seats we have already noticed.

On the opposite borders of the river which winds through

this part of the county, is **ROSY PARK**, long the fine residence of a branch of the family of **Foster**.

At *Knock* (antiently termed *Knocknasangan*) near **Louth**, a priory for regular canons, under the rule of **St. Augustin**, was founded, in the year 1148, by one of the **O'Carrols**, princes or chiefs of this district, and **Edan**, bishop of **Clogher**. **Moelmorius O'Gorman**, abbot in 1167, composed a martyrology, in the Irish language, which was formerly much esteemed. This monastery was dissolved in the 31st of **Henry VIII**. The buildings, and the whole of the monastic possessions in this county, were granted by **James I.** to **Sir John King, Knt.**

DUNDALK, second in importance among the towns of **Louth**, and the assize town of this county, is distant from **Dublin** 40½ miles, towards the north. This is a borough town, and imparts its name to a barony. It is situated in a recess of the most spacious bay on the eastern coast of Ireland, with the exception, perhaps, of the **Lough of Belfast**.

In consequence of its site having for a long time occupied the extremity of the English pale, **Dundalk**, then the property of the **de Verdon** family, was formerly walled and fortified. The principal domestic buildings, in those times of danger, were uniformly defensible towers, or small castles, many of which were remaining in the last century. **Mr. Wright** informs us, in the *Louthiana*, that **Viscount Limerick**, to whom this town then belonged, directed eighteen or nineteen ruinous remains of such structures to be taken down, shortly before the year 1747, and caused other buildings to be raised upon the old foundations. The town of **Dundalk** now contains several wide, and tolerably well-built, streets, the chief of which is nearly a mile in length. Considerable improvements have been effected in recent years.

This town was a favourite scene of action with **Edward Bruce**, on his invasion of Ireland in the reign of **King Edward II.** Shortly after his landing, in 1315, he visited this place, with all the cruelties which sword and fire could inflict; but was afterwards solemnly crowned here, or rather, according to some writers, at

Knocknemelan, distant about half a mile from the town walls. Here he exhibited the pageantry of an ostentatious but short-lived court; and near this town he paid the penalty of his presumption, in meeting a violent death.

The battle in which he fell took place on the 28th of May, 1318. His troops, wasted by famine and disease, were opposed by 1500 picked men, being about half their own numbers, under Sir John Birmingham, aided in the duties of command by Sir Miles Verdon, Sir Richard Tuite, John Cusack, and other gentlemen of the province of Leinster. The conflict was maintained on both sides with considerable courage, but the English at length obtained a decisive victory. According to most historians Bruce was slain by an English knight, named Maupas, whose body was found stretched on that of his conquered antagonist; but tradition has ascribed a more romantic termination to the life of this shadowy and self-chosen *King of Ireland*.* Sir John Birmingham, for the service rendered on the above occasion, was created earl of Louth, and at the same time received, from the crown, a gift of the manor of Atherdes.

In the year 1566, and at a period shortly subsequent to that date, Dundalk successfully resisted two sieges from the northern Irish, under O'Nial. In 1641, it was captured, after an obstinate defence, by Sir Henry Tichburne, and it was, likewise, surrendered to Lord Inchiquin, in 1649. On the latter occasion, Colonel Monk, afterwards Duke of Albemarle, was governor of the

* It has been supposed that the scene of action lay on *Fert Hill* and its vicinity, and it certainly took place within the parish of Faughart. In the pedigree of the Birmingham family it is said that "Roger de Maupas, a Burgess of Dundalk, disguised himself in a fool's dress, and in that character entering the Scottish camp, killed Bruce, by striking out his brains with a plummet of lead. He was instantly cut to pieces, and his body found stretched over that of Bruce, but for this service his heir was rewarded with forty marks a year; of which action Sir John having intelligence, met the Scots in good order of battle, and routed their whole army, with a very great slaughter." Lodge's Peerage by Archdall, vol. iii. pp. 33-4.

town, and it is said that he was forced to deliver up the place through a want of subordination in the garrison.

Dundalk was strongly garrisoned for James II. in the year 1689, but was abandoned on the approach of the army under Duke Schonberg, which encamped in this neighbourhood on the 7th of September in that year. The duke's camp was situated about a mile to the north of the town, on low and moist ground, having, says Harris, "the town and river to the south, the mountains to the east, and to the north hills and bogs intermixed." Here the English lay intrenched for more than two months, within sight of an opposed army, much superior in numbers, which, however, did not think proper to attack them. Whilst they thus remained in a state of inactivity, sickness, more destructive than the sword, swept away the flower of their ranks; and it must ever be doubted whether the extreme caution of Schonberg, in refraining to hazard a battle, was justifiable, on a consideration of the whole of the existing circumstances.*

A priory, dedicated to St. Leonard, for cross bearers, following the rule of St. Augustin, was founded here by Bertram de Verdon,

* The details of the extremities to which Duke Schonberg's army was reduced, as given in Story's "Impartial History," and by other writers, are truly harrowing to the feelings. We are told that the sufferers became, at length, insensible to the emotions of sympathy, using the dead bodies of their companions as seats on the cold swampy ground, and murmuring when they were deprived of such an accommodation! When the army removed to winter quarters, some of the sick were placed on board the ships which had arrived on the coast with supplies, and many were sent to Belfast, in waggons. Numbers expired, overcome by the motion of the land-carriages; and the roads were strewn with their bodies. Duke Schonberg displayed great care and tenderness throughout these trying scenes. He was then more than eighty years of age, but, regardless of his own person, he stood, for many hours, exposed to rain and tempest, at the bridge of Dundalk, encouraging the sick, and directing measures for their comfort. Whilst the army was removing under these disastrous circumstances, a sudden, and, happily, a false, alarm was spread that the enemy was at hand. The spirit which might have been exercised, with a prosperous issue, in battle at an earlier period, now broke forth. Even the diseased and feeble snatched their arms, and vowed to solace all their miseries in vengeance on the foe!

towards the close of the reign of Henry II. Patrick O'Scanlain, archbishop of Armagh, died here, A. D. 1270. This priory was afterwards an hospital for the sick and aged, of both sexes. On the suppression of religious houses, the buildings and appurtenances were granted to Henry Draycot.

On the east side of the town stood the *Gray Friary*, which was erected in the reign of Henry III. by the Lord John de Verdon. A chapter of the order was held at this Friary, in 1282. At the dissolution the building and monastic lands were granted to James Brandon. This fabric appears to have been of some extent and beauty. Ware observes that the east window, when in a perfect state, was particularly admired. A view of the church-tower, as it appeared in 1770, is given in the first volume of Grose's *Antiquities*.

Dundalk is a place of some traffic, and considerable quantities of corn are hence exported. The manufacture of cambric, which forms a part of the trading pursuits of the inhabitants, was first established here in 1737, on the estate of Viscount Limerick.* The parochial church is a commodious and well preserved structure, surmounted by a plain but well-proportioned spire, which was erected after the designs of F. Johnston, Esq. architect. Among other public buildings may be noticed a court-house, gaol, and barracks. A school, for the education of 20 boys and the same number of girls, was founded here, in 1726, by the Hon. Mrs. Anne Hamilton, mother of the first earl of Clanbrassil. Here is now a charter school, for sixty girls.

The family of Hamilton, created baron of Claneboye and viscount Limerick in 1719, and earl of Clanbrassil in 1756, had their chief residence at a mansion in this town, which is now a seat of the Earl of Roden, in consequence of the marriage of Robert, the

* The cambric manufactory was introduced to Ireland, in the year above named, by M. de Joncourt, who employed workmen from France. The first manufactory was established at Dundalk. In 1739, a joint stock company was incorporated by charter, with power to raise 30,000*l*. by subscription, chiefly for the purpose of carrying on this manufacture, "at Dundalk, or elsewhere in Ireland." Towards this joint stock, Viscount Limerick subscribed the sum of 1000*l*.

first nobleman of that title, with the sister and heiress of the last earl of Clanbrassil. At this mansion, among some few paintings are preserved two portraits, in the style of Holbein, representing King Henry VIII. and Queen Anne Boleyn. The house is ill-situated, but the demesne is extensive and finely circumstanced.

This town is internally governed by a recorder, bailiff, and town-clerk, and returns one member to the imperial parliament. The bay on which it is situated is safe for shipping of moderate burthen, and abounds with fish of various kinds.*

The CASTLE OF CASTLETOWN, situated on an eminence, about one mile from Dundalk, towards the west, forms a conspicuous object, when viewed from many parts of the surrounding country; and the hill on which it is placed commands fine and extensive prospects, embracing the bay, and the mountain scenery towards Carlingford. This castle was erected by the Bellow family, a branch of which long resided here, being succeeded in the occupation of the fortress by the family of Tipping. Spencer relates that the village, or town, on which the castle formerly bestowed a name, and from which itself borrows a modern appellation, was sacked and destroyed by Edward Bruce, in the year 1318. The building is of an oblong form, with a square tower at each angle, and has been adapted, with additions, to the uses of a modern dwelling. It appears to have been originally defended with outward walls and other works of circumvallation. Some castellated gateways, not remarkable for congruity of character with the main edifice, have been recently added; but, even if they should exist until they gain the crust of time, they will scarcely be mistaken for parts of the original works. Contiguous to the castle are the ruins of a church, with a cemetery, still used as a burial-place by the Roman catholic peasantry of the neighbourhood.

* Whilst noticing the natural plenty of fish on this part of the coast, it may not be superfluous to observe that Dr. Rutton mentions a sturgeon of unusual weight, which was "caught in a river near Dundalk, in the year 1754." It was ten feet in length, and is said to have been above 300lb. in weight. Rutton, Nat. Hist. &c. vol 1. p. 363.

On the summit of the same hill, is a considerable earthwork, appearing to display, in decisive features, the marks of successive occupants, using different modes of defence. A central mount presents the aspect of a rath, probably constructed by the ancient Irish. The author of the *Louthiana*, observes that this mount "appears to be all artificial, and is surrounded with a magnificent ditch. The height of the terras work in the middle, from the plane of the trench, is in some places fifty feet, and the circumference of the top is upwards of 460." Attached to the east and west sides, and apparently forming additions to the original design, are two small works of castrametation, having earthen ramparts. Both adjoin the outward vallum of the central-rath; and the united works cover the top of the hill on which they are constructed. The additional lines of encampment may, perhaps, without fear of error, be ascribed to the Danes.—A prospect-house has been recently erected on the summit of this earthwork.

On the expanse of land between two streams that unite in the Dundalk river, which tongue of land has been termed the *peninsula of Ballrichan*, are some remains of very remote antiquity. The principal of these vestiges are thus noticed in the *Louthiana*. "On the top of a small hill are five large stones, disposed in a circular form. At some distance on one side, and near the border of one of the streams, are two upright and ponderous stones. In different contiguous situations are three other large and unwrought stones, and also the remains of a cairn."

At a short distance from the above remains, are the ruins of the *Castle of Ballrichan*, which structure consisted of an oblong keep, with a spacious court enclosed by fortified walls. Distant about one mile, and placed on elevated ground, are also the vestiges of other works, composed of upright stones, with attendant remains, bearing some resemblance to those of Ballrichan. Mr. Wright observes that he caused an opening to be made in the areas of two of these circles of stone, at the centre, and found in both several decayed human bones. From the area of one circle were taken up, on digging, "the broken parts of two or three different urns, made of a sort of baked clay, one of which was filled with

burnt bones and pieces of charcoal, but the rest were almost quite decayed, and turned to a black grey substance. The cells of three of those urns were visible, placed in a triangular form, distant about eighteen inches, and near two feet below the surface of the earth, all separately enclosed with flat stones, set edgeways, about a base one, and covered with one at top." Engravings of the whole of the above subjects, but not well executed, are given in the *Louthiana*.

On the margin of Caricasticken river, at the distance of about half a mile from Ballrichan Castle, is a small fort, encompassed by a double ditch, termed *Mount*, or *Moat*, *Albani*. Several other remains of antient works in this part of the county, appearing to have formed stations or forts, are noticed by Mr. Wright, in the *Louthiana*. Among these, one of the most curious and extensive is termed *Rosshugh*, or the fort of *Carrick-Braud*. This camp was formerly surrounded with a double ditch and a triple vallum, one bank appearing to have been of stone and the rest of earth. In the interior are ruinous remains of buildings. In the close vicinity are traces of other camps, in one of which are the vestiges of an antient chapel.

Near the banks of the stream sometimes termed the river of Ballrichan, is a large and curious artificial cave, accidentally discovered by the sinking in of a horse, while drawing the plough. These subterranean works consisted of several narrow passages, or galleries, the sides and top of which were formed of flag-stones. The original entrance is thought to have been by a gentle descent and a few steps. No traces of the former appropriation of this cave were visible, but we are told, by the author of the *Louthiana*, that "some bones of large and small animals" were found in one of the galleries. The same writer asserts, but in terms so general as to require some qualification, that "all this part of Ireland abounds with such caves, not only under mounts, forts, and castles, but under unsuspected plain fields, some winding into little hills and risings, like a volute or ram's horn; others running zigzag, like a serpent; others, again, right forward, connecting cell with cell." A plan of the cave and its passages is given in the *Louthiana*.

The ruins of **ROCHE CASTLE**, near the western borders of this county, are seated on the top of a rocky hill, from which elevation is obtained a commanding view over the adjacent country. The building is of an irregular form, the design having been accommodated to the natural circumstances of the site. The date of erection is not known, but, according to a futile tradition, this castle was constructed by a lady named *Rose Verdon*, of the antient family of the Verdons, once powerful in this district and in the midland counties of England. This Lady Rose, adds the tradition, married into the family of Bellew; and the name of the castle is a corruption of her christian appellation. To whichever race may belong the honour of founding this building, it is certain that a branch of the antient and distinguished family of Bellew was seated here for several ages. In regard to the dimensions of the structure, and its former character, we are informed in the *Louthiana* that "the great chord, which is the front and longest side, is about eighty yards; and the versed side, or breadth, about forty. At the opposite corner to that of the main dwelling, was formerly a tower of defence, and underneath a sally-port." Roche Castle was defended for King Charles I. in 1649, and is said to have been demolished by Oliver Cromwell.

Upon the whole of the plains near Dundalk were formerly many rude works of stone, evidently raised at a period previous to the reception of christianity; several of which still remain. Amongst these, many single and unbewn stones, of considerable height and bulk, have attracted much notice. Some general remarks concerning such erections are presented in the introductory section of this work, treating of *Antiquities and Architecture*.

A cromlech, situated in the parish of Ballymascanlan, is imperfectly represented in a plate of the *Louthiana*. The covering stone has three supporters, and measures twelve feet in length by six feet in width. By the inhabitants of the country it is called the *Giant's Load*, and by some of the native Irish this monument is said to have been brought, "all at once," from the neighbouring mountains, by a giant, who, as they say, was buried near this place. It might have been thought that a tale, or tradition, so absurd, was, in every point of view, unworthy of antiquarian

discussion ; but we show, in the annexed note, that it has been adduced by a modern writer in support of a favourite hypothesis.*

The author of the *Louthiana* affords the judicious reader more satisfactory intelligence, in the account of a search made beneath the former base of a fallen cromlech, about two miles distant from that at Ballymascanlan. Two of the supporters were here broken down by the fall of the incumbent load ; the third was left standing. On digging there was found, in " the middle, about two feet deep, covered and inclosed within broad flat stones, great part of the skeleton of a human figure, all crowded together within a bed of black greasy earth, as if originally inclosed within an urn, now quite decayed and rotten. Mixed with the bones were found some pieces of clay, about the thickness of a man's little finger, quite solid and round, as if part of a rod broke to pieces."†

* Dr. Ledwich (*Antiqs. of Ireland*, p. 51) affirms that the cromlech was " the pensile monument of the Northerns." In regard to the traditionary term the *Giant's Load*, he observes, " here we discover plainly the northern origin of these monuments. Giants make no part of Celtic, though they do of Gothic mythology." By what art does this writer discover that the legend and the monument originated with the same people ? The endeavour to appropriate a whole class of antiquities, from the traditionary tales of country people, is a very surprising mode of reasoning, in disquisitions professedly serious.

† *Louthiana*, book iii, p. 12. It will be recollected that a wand formed the badge of authority, with the antient petty kings of Ireland. The following account of the ceremonies used at the initiation of the kings of Tyrconnel, is presented by Mr. Harris.—" When any person was to be invested with the title of O'Donnel, i. e. to be created king of the territory, the nobility and people assembled themselves on the summit of a certain hill, when one of the principal of the nobility arose, and performing the usual compliments of salutation, presented the new king with a *Wand*, perfectly white and straight, and upon the delivery of it used this form of words : Receive, O King ! the auspicious badge of your authority, and remember to imitate in your conduct the straightness and whiteness of this wand, that neither malice to your enemies, nor affection to your friends, may bend your mind from walking in the exact paths of justice. Enter, therefore, upon your rightful government, with auspicious omens, and safely take upon you the ensigns and ornaments of this State." Ware's *Antiqs.* by Harris, vol. ii. p. 65.

There is, also, in the Louthiana, a communication from a friend of the author, stating that he visited the spot subsequent to the first examination, and found that "the country-people had sunk above a yard deeper, and were still at work." They had then, adds this writer, "got under, and were trying to pull up, the large square stone, which stood on one edge. They came to another flat stone, under which they found many large bones; but we do not yet know whether they be human. They raised also many regular stones of a considerable length; and the whole place seems to have been built up regularly, as well to strengthen the three great props as to contain a proper repository for bones, or whatever was to be laid there."—We have so seldom an opportunity of ascertaining, fully, the state of circumstances underneath a cromlech, that the length of the above extracts will need no apology with the antiquarian reader.

On the plain of *Ballynahalme* are the remains of a circular temple, appearing to have been originally composed of four concentric circles of upright stones. This temple was encompassed with a rampart and ditch, admitting of an opening towards the east.

On *Killing-Hill*, a range of elevations so termed, are the remains of two temples, composed, like that noticed above, of circles of upright stones. One of these incloses a cromlech, the principal stones of which exhibit traces of rude spiral carvings; a very unusual feature in piles of this description.

At the distance of one quarter of a mile from *Killing-Hill*, and about two miles from *Dundalk*, are the ruins of an ancient structure, termed *Fagh na ain eighé*, or the one night's work. This building is placed on a mount, which would appear to be artificial, and which is cut (to adopt the words of the *Louthiana*) into "slopes and terraces." The form of the structure is oval, and its dimensions 44 feet 9 inches, by 21 feet. The walls are nearly seven feet in thickness, and are composed of rough stones, of different sizes. There are no traces of either doors, windows, or loop-holes. The ruins have been thought to resemble the hull of an ancient ship, and have given rise to much antiquarian discus-

sion. Governor Pownall (in a paper inserted in the *Archæologia*) ascribes this fabric to the northern pirates who invaded Ireland, and conjectures it to be the *Skidbladner* of the Edda; in which opinion he is supported by Dr. Ledwich. A building somewhat similar is said by Mr. Beauford to have been discovered in the county of Mayo. It may be observed, on the authority of the author of "Northern Antiquities," that the fortresses of the antient Danes were, like this building, mere rude piles, *rendered inaccessible by thick mis-shapen walls.*

FAUGHARD, OR FAUGHER, two miles and a quarter from Dundalk, towards the north-east, is celebrated as the birth-place of St. Brigid, who was born towards the middle of the fifth century, and was foundress of many nunneries in different parts of Ireland, but resided chiefly in the convent of her own foundation at Kildare. She died on the 1st of February, either in the year 521 or 523, on the anniversary of which day her memory is celebrated. According to Usher, a nunnery was erected here, by St. Monenna, in the year 638, wherein that saint presided, for some time, over 150 virgins. It is also said that a monastery for regular canons was erected here, in an early age, to the honour of St. Brigid; but no records of such a foundation are now remaining. The parish church is thought to have occupied its site. The ancient church falling to decay, a new structure has been recently erected, with the aid of 800*l.* lent by the board of first fruits, on a plot of ground purchased for that purpose of Lord Clermont. A handsome rectory-house has likewise been built, in that part of the parish termed *Fork-Hill.*

Mr. Wright expatiates, at some length, on certain vestiges of antiquity connected with this parish. An upright and unhewn mass of stone he describes as being named after St. Brigid. "It has a raised work about it, in the form of a horse-shoe," and the place is shown, where, "upon a rough rocky flint, those who were enjoined penance, as he was informed by a priest, used to pray upon their bare knees, *till the blood run round about them.*" He likewise notices a stone called St. Brigid's Pillar, "raised

upon two circular and concentric steps, round which the nuns of the convent used to go upon their knees, on particular occasions ; sometimes round the lesser, and sometimes round the larger circle, as their penitence required." An artificial mount, in this neighbourhood, called *the Faughard*, is mentioned by the same writer, as being " composed of stones and terras, raised to the height of sixty feet, in the form of the frustrum of a cone, with a deep trench round it. There was, formerly, some sort of an octagonal building upon the top of it, as appears from the foundations remaining ; but whether it was a tower, or a parapet only breast high, there is not wall enough now remaining to determine." Engraved views of the whole of these subjects are presented in the *Louthiana*.

Sir John Davies mentions, on the authority of the red book of the exchequer, that "*Fagher, neere Dondalke*," was the field of action between the armies under Edward Bruce and Sir John Birmingham, in which the first-named leader was overthrown and slain. Here also Lord Mountjoy gave a check to the arms of Tyrone, in the reign of Elizabeth.

Between the town of Dundalk and Fork Hill is the handsome mansion of Colonel Ogle, recently erected at a considerable expense.

RAVENSDALE PARK, in the parish of Ballymascanlan, is one of the seats in this county belonging to the family of Fortescue, descended from the antient family of that name in Devonshire, and ennobled by the titles of viscount and baron Clermont. The first of this family who resided at Ravensdale was the Right Hon. James Fortescue, who represented the county of Louth, in the parliament of Ireland, for many years, and died in 1782. By that gentleman the present well-wooded and improved demesne was created, from a tract so wild that it might be denominated a waste. The house is finely situated, and the grounds possess much beauty ; but this seat seldom affords a residence to its noble owner.

In the same neighbourhood are the seats of Baron M'Clelland, and J. Wolfe M'Neale, Esq.

Near *Lurgan Green*, a small fair town on the western margin of the bay of Dundalk, is CLERMONT, a seat that affords the title of Viscount and Baron, in the Irish peerage, to the family of Fortescue.

At a short distance from the above seat, towards the south, is DROMISKIN, or DRIMISKIN, where are the remains of a round or pillar tower, which fabric would appear to have been, when perfect in its original height, one of the tallest and most spacious buildings of the kind in Ireland. The antient doorway is round-headed, and elevated, as usual, many feet above the ground; but an opening, level with the soil, was made in late years, this ruin having been adopted for a belfry. The castle and lands of Dromiskin, belonging to the Fortescue family, were obtained by Sir Faithful Fortescue, Knt. in the reign of James I; early in which reign Sir Faithful settled in Ireland. Chichester Fortescue, Esq. the grandson of Sir Faithful, became ancestor of that branch of the Fortescue family that is denominated after this place.

CASTLE BELLINGHAM, another village on the margin of Dundalk (contiguous to *Gernonstown*, the antient residence of the Gernon family) is pleasantly situated, and is celebrated for its breweries, which are said to produce the best ale in Ireland. Some linen is also manufactured here. Near the village is an earth-work, situated on the summit of an eminence commanding extensive views. Mr. Wright describes this work as having "been formerly a very strong camp, in the shape of an heart." In one corner of the enclosure is a circular tumulus. The neighbouring country-people have a vague tradition, that the first parliament held in Ireland was assembled here.

At *Kilsaran*, near Gernonstown, a commandery for Knights Templars was founded, in the twelfth century, by Maud de Lacy. In the reign of Edward II. this foundation was bestowed on the Knights Hospitallers.

The small town of Carlingford is situated near the foot of an extensive range of mountains, on the south east side of a spacious

bay. This was a station of some importance during the early ages of the English ascendancy in Ireland. The first formation of a town, to any considerable extent, was probably consequent on the erection of a castle, which is traditionally said to have taken place by order of King John. This town was never regularly walled or fortified; but, as it was exposed to continual dangers, on account of its situation on the frontier of the Pale, every principal domestic building was designed in humble resemblance of a fortress. The remains of such structures were numerous, not more than half a century back.

History has not preserved the remembrance of many important events connected with this frontier town. In 1649, it quickly surrendered to Lord Inchiquin, after that commander had succeeded in reducing Dundalk, its more powerful neighbour. In the war between William and James, a detachment of the forces under the Duke of Berwick set fire to Carlingford, and effected considerable damage.

The *Castle*, which is often termed *King John's Castle*, is an extensive but not a picturesque ruin, seated on a solid rock, the sides of which are laved by the sea. Lofty mountains rise in an inland direction, at the foot of which is a narrow pass, formerly commanded by the fortress. The building was of an irregular form, adapted to the natural circumstances of its site. The walls are, in some parts, not less than eleven feet in thickness.

On the southern side of the town are the ruins of a *Monastery*, founded in the year 1305, by Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, under the invocation of St. Malachy, for friars-preachers, or Dominicans. In the thirty-fourth year of Henry VIII. this dissolved friary and its possessions, among which were seven messuages within the town, and a water-mill, were granted, *in capite*, to Nicholas Bagnell. The remains of the buildings are extensive and picturesque, exhibiting traces of the pointed architecture of the fourteenth century. On the summit of a neighbouring hill is a church of antient foundation, with a large burial-ground.

Carlingford formerly gave the title of earl to the family of Taaffe, seated for many centuries in the county of Louth. The title becoming extinct in that family, by the decease of Theobald,

the fourth earl, without issue, in 1738, his late majesty, George III. bestowed the title of *Viscount Carlingford* on the family of Carpenter, together with the earldom of Tyrconnel.

The *Bay of Carlingford* is spacious, and the water deep; but, unfortunately, the navigation is rendered dangerous by hidden rocks. The scenery is truly beautiful. The mountains, which rise on both sides, are in some parts ornamentally wooded, and in other divisions are richly varied with heath or verdure, and smiling strips of cultivation. The shores are decorated with numerous villas and agreeable cottages, whilst several villages, much resorted to for bathing, increase the animation that imparts an indescribable charm to the margin of these attractive waters.

We must not quit this favoured spot without observing that the shores of Carlingford bay are celebrated for the production of a species of oyster, highly esteemed, and sent for sale to Dublin, and many more distant parts of the island. This oyster has the peculiarity of green skirts, or fins, and is by no means of a prepossessing appearance, but has a delicious flavour.

Some further descriptive remarks on the shores of Carlingford Bay, are presented in that part of our work which treats of the county of Down.

END OF THE PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

MUNSTER, the southern province of Ireland, is bounded on the north by Connaught, and on the east by Leinster: on the south and west it meets the ocean. This is the largest of the four provinces into which the island is divided. According to Wakefield it comprehends 9276 English square miles; but Beaufort makes the number of square miles to be no more than 8,474 English, or 5,275, Irish measure. It is said, in the additions to the Britannia; that "Munster is about 100 miles long. The breadth is very unequal, being from 68 to 107 miles, and the circumference, including the windings, about 600." The total number of inhabitants, in the year 1821, appears, from the periodical returns of the enumerators, and the reports of the magistrates, to have been 2,005,363. It is divided into the six counties named, Cork; Waterford; Tipperary; Clare; Limerick; and Kerry.

Ptolemy places in this division of Ireland the nations, or tribes, termed Velabri; Uterini; Vodise, and Coriondi; to which, if we follow Orosius, may be added the Luceni.

It is stated, in Gough's additions to Camden, chiefly on the authority of Ortelius, and documents presented in the *Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis*, that Munster, before the arrival of the English, contained the eight following principalities: 1. *Hy Brooghlan*, the present county of Waterford. 2. *Ostrij*, the ancient Ossory, being part of the present Queen's County, and county of Tipperary. 3. *Ormond*, or *Oir-Mumhan*, that is, East Munster, comprehending the present baronies of Upper and Lower Ormond, and also the baronies of Owny and Arra, in the county of Tipperary. 4. *Thomond*, or *Tuath-Mumhan*, that is North Munster, comprehending the present county of Clare. 5. *Aine Cliach*, or *Eoganach*

Ainecliach, the present county of Limerick. 6. *Cerrigis*, or *Ciar*, the present county of Kerry. 7. *Aoidh Liathain*, containing the north part of the county of Cork, and the present baronies of Fermoy, Barreta, Barrymore, Killatatoone, and Imokilly. 8. *Corcaluighe*, the antient kingdom of Cork.

In conformity to the usage of Celtic institutions, the petty princes who ruled over the above districts, were subject to a provincial sovereign, who was styled King of Munster. In the first volume of the *Collectanea Hibernica* is given a genealogical and historical account of the kings of Munster, commencing with Eogan More, who lived in the latter part of the second century. The account of those kings, from Eogan More down to Kennedy, the father of Brien, king of all Ireland, is extracted from the *Codex Memorialis*, or Munster book. After which reign the historical particulars are collected from various annals, but chiefly from those of Innisfallen and Tighernach. It will readily be expected that the anecdotes presented, relate to little besides battle and murder. They, however, assume some importance as the story approaches the conclusion of the eighth century, at which time Munster was first infested by invasions from the north. From these provincial annals we find that the Danes, or Gtmes, with various fortune, harassed the most fertile parts of Munster, for many successive ages, although often encountered by the natives, with distinguished bravery. The memorable gallantry of Brien Boiroidh, King of Munster, who marched against these foes, at the head of the tribe of Dal-Cas, and perished at Clontarf, in the arms of victory, has been already noticed in our description of Leinster.

When the vacillating power of the Danes, in Ireland, fell, for ever, beneath the ascendancy of the English, Munster made no step towards the attainment of internal tranquillity. Much blood was shed in an opposition to the new power, waged by the native princes; or, on their decay, by the antient Irish interest. When the sword was not drawn in the general cause, it was employed in family quarrels, almost equally destructive in operation as warfare on great public questions. Among these, the hostilities

between the Deaghda and M'Carthy's are offensively prominent. But the most important event in the annals of Munster, subsequent to the entry of the English, as regards topographical investigations, is found in the change of property and population designed, and partly effected, by Queen Elizabeth.

That sagacious queen, and her advisers, had long entertained the scheme of repeopling the South of Ireland with English families; and the grievous consequences of a long and devastating war, presented an advantageous opportunity for carrying this project into execution. On the attainder of the Earl of Desmond, and as many as one hundred and forty of his adherents, the younger sons of good families, and other adventurous persons, were invited from every part of England to become *undertakers*, or settlers on the forfeited estates. We are told, by the historians of this era, that lands were offered, in fee, "at a small acreable rent of three pence, and in some places two pence." The full payment of even that small rent was not to commence until the expiration of six years, and seven years were allowed to complete the plantations. "The undertaker for twelve thousand acres, was bound to plant eighty-six families on his estate: those who engaged for lesser assignments were to provide a proportionable number. Sir Christopher Hatton, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Thomas Norris, Sir Walter St. Leger, Sir George Bouchier, and many other gentlemen of power and distinction, received grants of different portions."

The lands forfeited, at this juncture, are said to have amounted to upwards of 5740 acres. Of these it is supposed that about 3440 were granted to undertakers; the remainder being restored to such as were pardoned, or being suffered to remain in possession of the old proprietors.

The result of this politic design, proved remarkably inadequate to the expectations formed by Elizabeth and her council. Many of the principal grantees were of too high a station in their own country, to enter on the penalties of a residence upon lands to which themselves, and the hand from which they derived, had no other claim than that of the sword, still wet with blood.

They were, also, unable to place a due number of useful tenants on their respective estates; and it appears that the government, and the planters, were equally neglectful of measures for the defence of the new colony. From these, and numerous minor causes, very few of the families endowed with the forfeited property of Munster, in the time of Elizabeth, struck root in the soil. It is truly observed, in an analysis of the Down Survey, prefixed to the valuable work of Mr. Shaw Mason, that the descendants of the adventurers under Queen Elizabeth, viewed as a body, have, for the most part, melted away from observation, in a manner altogether painful and surprising.

This Southern province comprises tracts of great natural fertility, but there are many ranges of mountain inaccessible to the agriculturist, and not calculated to afford any real benefit to society, unless it shall be found that they contain mineral products, in sufficient quantities to reward the efforts of enterprise and industry. To the traveller in search of the picturesque, many parts of Munster will afford high gratification. The charms of Killarney exalt this island to a rivalry with Switzerland, the great show-place of Europe. Nor are the attractions of Munster confined to the boasted splendour of the lakes. Its extensive lines of coast, in various parts, but particularly those towards the west, display unusual grandeur of scenery; and the banks, not only of the principal rivers, but of some unregarded streams, reveal beauties calculated to surprise and enchant the admirer of nature. At some future day, when the neglected charms of this fair territory shall be more duly appreciated than at present, it is probable that each of these rivers will have its descriptive "Guide," or encomiastic "Tourist;" and it will then be found that they are as deserving of tasteful inquiry, and of illustration from the pencil and the pen, as the more favoured Wye of an island under happier circumstances.

The cities of Cork, Limerick, and Waterford add much to the importance of this division of Ireland; and the country abounds in subjects of antiquarian speculation, many of which possess a considerable degree of interest.

COUNTY OF CORK.

THIS is much the largest county in Ireland, and is not inferior in size to any English county, except Yorkshire. Its greatest extent, from east to west, is rather more than ninety Irish miles, and its width, at the broadest part, which occurs near the centre, is about forty. On the north its boundaries meet those of Limerick. On the east and north-east lie Waterford and Tipperary. Kerry joins this county on the west; and on the south is a fine extent of sea-coast, comprehending, indeed, the greater part of the southern coast of Ireland.

The county of Cork is of a hilly character throughout, and in some parts presents mountains of great altitude and extent. The western districts are chiefly mountainous, and exhibit much wildness of aspect, often blended with great beauty. A chain of mountains runs westward, through the central parts of the county. It is remarked by Mr. Townsend, that all the "ranges of high and low land are observed to run nearly in the direction of east and west, if not with perfect regularity, at least with such a general tenour as to stamp this their leading character." The most equable and fertile tracts are found in the north and east. The south-west borders of the county are composed of immense masses of rock, which act as barriers against the rage of the Atlantic ocean, often forming prominent headlands, for the defence of the bays and harbours which are numerous on this coast.

From this prevailing diversity of surface, is obtained an endless variety of captivating scenery, deficient in no component part of the picturesque, with the exception of wood. That this county formerly abounded with timber, is sufficiently evident from the vestiges discovered beneath the soil; but the same causes which have led to the denudation of other parts of Ireland, have here operated with most destructive force.

No county of Ireland is more amply watered than that which we are now describing. The *Blackwater*, which takes its rise among mountains on the borders of Kerry, and discharges itself into the sea at Youghal, is the principal river. The banks of this river afford an exuberance of rich and lovely scenery, but the rapidity of its course is so great, that it is not navigable, in an important degree, beyond the flow of the tide. This is the *Awinduff* of Spencer. The river *Lee*, which rises from a lake, also on the confines of Kerry, proceeds in an easterly direction, for about thirty miles from its source, when it arrives at the city of Cork, and there, meeting the tide, becomes navigable for vessels of considerable burthen. The rivers of minor consideration are the *Bandon*; the *Ilea*; and the *Awbeg*. This latter river, under the name of the *gentle Mulla*, is celebrated in verses, likely to prove lasting as the flow of its own waters, by the poet Spencer, whose former place of residence on its banks will be hereafter noticed. Many small lakes are found in the mountainous parts of the county, and chalybeate springs occur in various districts, the most popular medicinal waters being those of Mallow, again mentioned in our description of that place.

The *Soil*, although branching into various subordinate species, may be reduced, in a general view, into four kinds, which are thus succinctly described in the Agricultural Survey.—“The calcareous, or that found in the limestone tracts.—The loamy soils not calcareous, by which are meant those deep and mellow soils remote from limestone, and generally occurring in the less elevated parts of the grey and red stone districts.—The light and shallow soils, resting upon an absorbent bottom, as gravel and rubbly stone;—and the moorland, or peat soil, the usual substratum of which is hard rock, or coarse retentive clay.”

The state of agriculture is still very backward, except on the estates of those amateur farmers of high rank, whose lands, like their drawing-rooms, are disposed nearly in the same fashion in every part of the empire. The various causes which have long aggrieved the agricultural interest of Ireland, and can only be surmounted by a gradual and general amelioration of manners, press

heavily on the petty farmers of this district, who, as in every other part of this island, form the great majority of persons employed in cultivating the soil. Among such, the spade is still often used as a substitute for the plough, not from preference, but through want; and we thus see, imposed by necessity, that simple and laborious state of husbandry, which a modern benevolent speculator would fain recommend to adoption, on a principle of improvement. Men naturally strive to persuade themselves that their defects, or privations, are, in fact, beneficial; and, thus, the lower and ignorant classes of farmers, in this county, indulge in a prejudice that much ploughing weakens the soil!

The growth of potatoes is the object of greatest concern with the ordinary farmer; and, after this crop, the common succession is wheat; barley; oats. Our readers in England, conversant with good agricultural practice, will not find, without surprise, that the seed of the last-named grain, where the plough is partially used, is "commonly thrown on the stubble, and ploughed in, frequently without the application of the harrow." After wheat and barley are sown, the clods are usually broken with a spade—an inefficient, or, at least, a most laborious, substitute for the proper use of the plough, and the adoption of the harrow.

Weeding is seldom practised, except with the potatoe crop; and this circumstance of neglect, joined with the exhaustion to which the land is subjected by a repeated succession of corn, renders unavailing the real goodness of the soil, and the intended bounty of nature. The use of artificial grasses is obtaining in many parts of the county, and presents the best means of counter-acting the ill effect proceeding from the mischievous activity of the ignorant agriculturist.

The system of mimic gavelkind, or division of small holdings amongst the numerous sons of a farming family, produces here, as in other parts of Ireland, the serious evil of a great population of small farmers, all indigent, all prejudiced, and rendered, from their self-elected position, a weak and ready prey to the impositions of those who trade in land, and usurp a name of much reverence in countries where no such petty divisions take place—

that of landlord. We present, below,* an accurate description of the dwelling of an ordinary farmer; and, where the head of an agricultural establishment lives in such circumstances of misery, it will be easily supposed that the condition of the peasant, his labourer, is woful indeed! A progressive improvement, however, has been taking place in the condition of the lower classes of society, through many recent years.

The implements of husbandry are few, and of rude construction, on the small farms; and the car without wheels is still used, in mountainous and reclusive parts of the country.

The manners and customs of the people of this district do not differ, in many important particulars, from those prevailing in other parts of Ireland. The peasantry of both sexes are capable of great and patient labour, and are uniformly of a vivacious and communicative temper. So curious are the paradoxes of human condition, that poverty itself, by precluding all calculations respecting the future, gives cheerfulness as a substitute for the cares and anxiety which attend every stage in the acquirement of property, and invariably promote taciturnity of habit. A very poor is, generally, a very merry people.

The Irish language is exclusively used, in most places remote from principal towns; and hence, if no other motive were apparent, might we, in some measure, account for the abhorrence with which the natives of this county view all proposals of emigration. Traces of antient customs must be expected amongst a people who thus fondly adhere to the original language of their country, and cling, through all severities of privation, to the spot that afforded them

* "Houses differ in size according to the circumstances of the occupier, but they are all built, when left to the farmer's choice, on the same exceptionable plan, with an open chimney at one end, and a small room separated by a partition at the other. This is the bed-chamber of the family, and serves also as a store room. The walls are too low to allow an upper floor for habitable purposes, but a few sticks, thrown across at the feet of the rafters, form a receptacle for lumber. Glass windows are a luxury to which cottagers rarely aspire; but, as light is an indispensable requisite, they contrive, by making two opposite doors, to have one always open for its admission." Townsend's Stat. Survey, p. 211.

birth. The most remarkable of these is the practice of the funeral cry, or plaint; an obstreperous substitute for the genuine expressions of grief, that is here raised by women only, and often by such females as officiate upon this occasion, without the incitement of any previous connexion with the deceased, or real sympathy with the woes and interests of the surviving family. The ceremonies of the *wake* do not vary from those of other counties.

Little is known concerning the subterranean contents of this county. Iron ore is found in great plenty, and was formerly smelted in considerable quantities. Lead has, also, been frequently discovered, but usually in small veins. Copper is more rarely seen. Coal, the fossil of primary importance to the wants of man in a denuded country, has been found in one barony only, and far distant from the principal towns. Marble, of a great variety of hues, and often of a very estimable quality, abounds in several tracts, and may, when better known, become an article of great request. It is generally of a mixed colour, but pure white is found in narrow veins. Brown and yellow ochres, and potter's clay, complete the list of useful subterraneous productions hitherto discovered.

The manufactures are of little importance, in a commercial point of view. Besides frieze and linen, chiefly used for home consumption, there are, in different parts of the county, some few establishments for the manufactures of cotton; sail-cloth, of an approved quality; woollen articles; and paper. The provision trade forms an important branch of commercial pursuits, in the city of Cork. A great part of the beef, pork, and butter produced throughout the south of Ireland is shipped at that port.

This large county is divided into the following *Sixteen Baronies*: *Duhallow; Orrery and Kilmore; Fermoy; Condons and Clangibbon; Kilsnalloon; Imohilly; Barrymore; Barretts; Musherry; Kinalmeaky; Kinsale and Kerri-currihy; Courceys; Barryroe; Ibane or Ibane; Carbery; and Bear and Bantry.* To these must be added, in regard to circumstances of political division, the *county of the City of Cork*, and the *liberties of Youghal, Kinsale, and Mallow.*

The whole of the above districts are sub-divided, in reference to ecclesiastical affairs, into three diocesses and 269 parishes. The diocesses are those of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross, which now form two sees only; the bishoprics of Cork and Ross being united.

Besides its capital, the City of Cork, this county contains several towns of great respectability, but none, with the above exception, of distinguished commercial importance. Amongst these Kinsale and Youghal are the most conspicuous, as sea-ports; whilst Mallow, from several causes, takes a priority of rank, in regard to inland towns.

The seats, both antient and modern, of nobility and gentry, are very numerous, and are often placed in situations of great beauty.

Before the arrival of the English, Cork formed a separate kingdom, under the sway of the M'Carthy's. It was granted by Henry II. to Robert Fitz-Stephen and Milo de Cogan, with the exceptions of the City of Cork, and the " Cantred belonging to the Ostmén of the said City," which the king retained in his own hands. It was made shire-ground by King John, in the year 1210. Traces of the antient Irish families are still to be discovered; but the larger part of the property is vested in the descendants of various settlers, rewarded with grants of conquered or forfeited lands, at the several eras of great political change in Ireland.

The county of Cork yields a rich harvest of subjects, for the gratification of the antiquarian examiner. Amongst the most antient vestiges, are numerous circles of upright stones; cromlechs; raths; pillars, consisting of a single erect stone, or of two stones, dissimilar in height, placed at a short distance from each other; and caves, or excavations, in several instances of considerable extent. Some few remarks, of a general character, may be here presented concerning the above-named relics of antiquity in this county.

It is noticed by Mr. Townsend, as a feature of some peculiarity, that the *Cromlechs* are usually composed of stones approaching to a rotundity of form. This practice, so likely to prevail among a

people with whom the spherical figure was adopted in sacred erections, undoubtedly through a desire of imitating the apparent form of the greater celestial bodies, is not, as we believe, observable in other districts. The *Raths*, thickly spread over this county, would appear to have been chiefly designed as defensible places of habitation, and, although ascribed, by popular tradition, to the Danes, were probably the works of the antient Celtic proprietors of the soil.* A vault, or excavation, having a low entrance, is generally found in each; and it must be mentioned, that, in some few instances, the raths of this county are of a square form.

The remains of antient ecclesiastical structures are numerous, but are, in scarcely any instance, of imperative interest. Many examples occur of the relics of small and very old churches, composed of stones heaped together without the use of cement, and quite destitute of any decisive features in architectural arrangement. Vestiges of the circular style, often termed Saxon, are rarely seen; and the remains of buildings in the pointed mode of design, although frequently rendered picturesque by the effects of decay, do not, in many instances, evince grandeur of design or conspicuous merit in execution. There are only two round, or pillar, towers now remaining in this county; one of which is situated at Cloyne, and the other at Kinneagh.

The relics of castellated structures are numerous, and afford

* Mr. Townsend, in his "Statistical Survey," inclines towards coinciding with the popular superstition, and is willing to suppose that the raths in the county of Cork were erected by "the northern invaders," because places of such strength "imply a state of contention and insecurity, and are irreconcilable with the idea of a *pastoral life*, and the common condition of aboriginal inhabitants." No person ever thought of ascribing the fortified camps of the Celts and Belgæ, whether in England or Ireland, to times of pastoral simplicity. Those ages, alas! had passed away before existing record begins. But the writings of Cæsar and Tacitus explain the necessity of defensible places amongst the natives, when those authors penned the first credible pages concerning Britain; and the same want, amongst the first known inhabitants of Ireland, is equally apparent from the testimony of the most antient writers, entitled to credit, upon the subject of that island.

examples, often strongly marked, of the different styles which prevailed in the various ages between the entry of the Anglo-Normans, and the disuse of actual fortification in the dwellings of the affluent classes of society. Some few of these are still in fair preservation, and, with the aid of additional buildings, are inhabited by families of high respectability.

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY OF CORK,

According to the returns made under the act of Parliament of 1812.

Baronies, Half Baronies, or Parishes.	Number of Houses.	Gross Population.
Bantry,	1,768	9,872
Bear,	2,492	11,945
Barretts,	2,473	13,970
Barrymore,	7,140	41,235
Barryroe and Ihawn,	3,781	22,026
E. Carbery, E. div.	5,737	33,994
E. Carbery, W. div.	5,507	31,066
W. Carbery, E. div.	5,639	30,515
W. Carbery, W. div.	4,822	25,923
Condons,	5,111	30,066
Courceys,	761	4,171
Duhallow,	7,353	43,087
Fermoy,	5,990	34,182
Imokilly,	6,314	36,846
Bandon,	388	2,915
Kerricurrihy,	1,742	10,695
Killnattoon,	1,116	6,653
Kinalmeaky,	2,654	14,955
Kinalea,	3,012	16,547
Kinsale,	2,016	11,863
Mallow,	869	5,542
Muskerry, W.	4,979	28,943
Muskerry, E.	4,024	23,354
Orrery,	4,331	24,462
Youghal,	1,428	9,109
TOTAL....	91,447	523,936

According to the returns obtained in 1821, the number of inhabitants in the County was 702,000. Not any return is pre-

seated as to the number of houses. The number of inhabitants in the city, was, at the same time, 100,535.

CORK.

This large, commercial, and handsome city, entitled, in every point of view, to the rank of the second city in Ireland, is distant from Dublin 124½ miles, towards the south-west. Its name is thought to have been derived from its circumstances of situation; *Cercach* signifying, in Irish, a moor, or marsh.

The earliest historical notice preserved respecting this place, relates to the commencement of the seventh century, at which time a monastery was founded here by St. Barr, or Finbarr. The schools attached to this religious house attained so much celebrity, and attracted hither "such numbers of disciples, who flocked from all parts," that, according to the biographer of St. Nessan, "a desert, as it were, by quick degrees became a large city." It would appear to be unquestionable that the religious founders of monastic houses, in the early ages of christianity, selected the most secluded spots for the indulgence of their pious and contemplative habits. We may, therefore, safely conclude that the country bordering on the site of St. Finbarr's Abbey, if not literally a desert, was thinly peopled; and to that saintly personage must be ascribed the origin of a city, which has since risen to so high a rank of commercial importance, and now constitutes the capital of Munster.

The first assemblage of dwellings was, probably, made on the south side of the river, in the vicinity of the abbey and cathedral. It is usually said that the Danes, or Ostmen, settled in Cork soon after their invasion of Ireland, and enclosed the city with walls, about the middle of the ninth century. But the pages of early annalists abound with notices of ravages committed upon this town, by the Danes, with fire and sword, in many years of the ninth and following centuries, the last recorded act of aggression being of so recent a date as 1013. It would, consequently, appear that the ascription of such an honour to that barbarous people is entirely erroneous, at least in relation to so early a date

as the ninth century. It is, however, clear that they possessed the allotment of a certain part of the town, on the entry of the Anglo-Normans.

The city is said to have been destroyed by fire, in the year 1080; but, by this term, we are, probably, to understand no more than a partial demolition. It formed a place of some strength on the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, or English; and was successfully held by them against the united forces of M'Carthy, of Desmond, and O'Loughlan, together with troops from Connaught. When the introduction of artillery altered the character of warfare, Cork ceased to constitute a post capable of lasting resistance. Commanded on both sides by rising grounds, no art of fortification could render it long defensible against the assault of cannon. The most important military event of recent ages, is the siege to which it yielded, but not ingloriously, in the year 1690.

On the 21st of September, in the above year, the Earl of Marlborough, with about 5000 men, arrived in Cork-road, and was shortly joined by the Prince of Wirtemberg and General Sgravenmore, with a force nearly equal to his own. He effected a landing with little difficulty, and the garrison gradually abandoned their outworks. A breach was made in the wall; and the English and Dutch passed the river, wading to the height of their shoulders, and posted themselves under that bank of the marsh that acted as a counterscarp to the city wall. They were still, however, in some measure, exposed to the fire of the garrison; and here the Duke of Grafton, natural son of Charles II. received a mortal wound. Preparations were made for a general assault, when the garrison, about 4,500 strong, sounded a parley, and surrendered as prisoners of war. The surrender was made five days after the commencement of the siege.

The bounds of antient Cork, for several centuries subsequent to the entry of the Anglo-Normans, were formed by a marshy tract of ground, insulated by a division of the river Lee into two branches, which island still constitutes the site of a considerable part of the city. "Cork," writes Dr. Smith, "was originally built in the form of an oblong square, the length of which was

from the north gate to the south gate, and its breadth from the city wall on the west marsh to that parallel to it, which faced the east marsh. This wall had an interruption, towards the middle, at the lower end of Castle-Street, called Martin Gate, defended on the north by a strong castle, which stood near the site of the new market-house, called the Queen's Castle; and, within the walls, on the ground where the present county court-house is built, stood another castle, called the King's Castle. The former was subsisting in the reign of James I. and the latter was taken down in the year 1718, and houses built on the ground. To the south of this castle, at the lower end of Christ-church lane, stood a strong tower on the city wall, from whence I do not find any other till the south-east angle of the wall, where there was a small tower; and from thence to the south gate there was no fortification. Both the north and south gates were defended by castles, one at each end of the bridge. From the south gate to the south-west angle, was a tower, about midway; and one at that angle. The water-gate was defended by a small castle, between which and the north-west angle stood the belfry of St. Peter's church. From hence to the north-west angle is one small tower, still remaining; and another at that angle, whence the wall ran without any fortification, till it came to the north gate."

Cork has been fortunate in possessing natural circumstances adapted to the cultivation of commerce, rather than such as were calculated for military defence. Whilst strong holds, which have incited the resort of conflicting armies, have had their gaudy day, and passed into ruin, this city, with slow but certain steps, has advanced in magnitude and consideration, beneath the fostering influence of TRADE, the mother of the arts. Her progress, however, has been tardy, nor has she, until within the century last passed, eclipsed the rival cities of the South. Camden describes Cork as "a city of an oval figure, and consisting of one straight street, continued by a bridge." He adds, that "it is a little trading-town, of great resort and eminence." Stanihurst speaks of it, as a place inferior to Limerick and Waterford.

We have observed that the limits of antient Cork were formed

by the river Lee, here separating into two streams. Besides those two principal channels, several minor branches of the river intersected the city, in various directions. These were said to have given to the place the aspect of a Dutch town; and they, in fact, constituted canals, which were supposed to afford facilities to commerce. But the better judgment of recent ages has discovered, that even an increasing trade, required not the aid of such auxiliaries. The main branches of the river present sufficient opportunities for the warehouses of merchants; and the corporation have wisely arched over the numerous shallow and muddy canals, greatly to the improvement of several principal streets and subordinate lines of thoroughfare. The city walls no longer exist; and a large increase of buildings has taken place, both to the north and south of the river Lee, but chiefly in the former direction. A great augmentation of the city commenced early in the eighteenth century. The historian Smith, writing about 1748, observes that Cork was, at that date, "above thrice as large as it was forty years ago." Since the time at which Dr. Smith wrote, the increase in size has been very considerable, and in neatness and convenience beyond the calculation of a person, living at the era in which he took so much honest pride in the augmented extent and elegance of the city.

Cork, in its present state, occupies not only a vale, watered by the river Lee, here flowing through two branches; but, also, the north and south banks of that river, which rise, in a gentle scale of ascent, to a considerable altitude. The new streets, and those improved by recent alterations, are of an eligible width, and several are both spacious and handsome. Many of the minor avenues still act as confined, crowded, and dirty memorials of the antient state of the city. An accurate idea of the usual width of these old lines of thoroughfare, may be conveyed by observing that one miserable alley, not more than ten feet in width, was of dimensions so pre-eminent as to be entitled to the denomination of *Broad lane*.

The houses in the principal streets are, in general, large and good, but deficient in regularity, beyond those of any great city

with which we are acquainted. They are roofed with slate, and many are faced with that material; a circumstance by no means favourable to beauty and cheerfulness of aspect. The footpaths, like the parts designed for the transit of carriages, are merely paved with rough, pebbly stones, except in the favoured instances of some individual houses, where flag-stone pavement has been introduced, as a laudable example to the inhabitants of the city at large. The street termed the Grand Parade is wide, and of a pleasing character, though the great irregularity of the buildings detracts much from its real beauty. On this parade is one of the few efforts at ornament introduced in this city; an equestrian statue of King George II.* The South Mall is, likewise, a well-proportioned and handsome street. Cork wears, throughout, the appearance of a commercial town, and its similitude of character to many of the large trading places of England has been frequently noticed, and cannot fail to strike the traveller. Hence, as well as for more solid and estimable reasons, it is often termed the Bristol of Ireland.

The approaches to the city are confined and uninviting, in every direction except that from the north-east; in which line the river Lee is crossed by a handsome new bridge, erected under the care of Mr. Michael Shanahan, of Cork. It consists of three semi-elliptical arches, and was designed partly on the plan of that of Neuilly, near Paris. Patrick Street, to which this bridge conducts, has been recently improved, and now forms a wide, appropriate, and pleasing, entrance to a city, which, on a more intimate view, is speedily found to possess real importance.

We have already observed that this southern emporium of commerce is but little indebted to the ornamental labours of the statuary, or to those of the architect, as regards domestic buildings. It will be found that the same penury of tasteful decoration prevails in the public structures.

* On the die of the pedestal is the following inscription: "The citizens of Cork erected this statue to the memory of King George the Second, in gratitude for the many blessings they enjoyed during his auspicious reign. A. D. 1762."

The *Exchange* is not entirely destitute of pretensions to architectural beauty, but is inconveniently situated in the midst of crowded buildings, and is quite unworthy of the city to which it appertains. The lower, or open part, is of the Doric order. The floor above contains a spacious room, and is ornamented on the outside with Ionic columns and pilasters. This fabric was commenced in the year 1708, and completed in 1710. The architect was an Italian.

The inconvenience of the exchange was found to be so great in modern times, that a more eligible structure has lately been erected for the resort of merchants, under the name of *THE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS*. This edifice is well situated, and is, in every respect, judiciously adapted to its intended purposes. The principal room is ascended by a flight of stone steps, and is seventy-five feet in length, by nearly forty feet in width. We are told that the ground on which these buildings stand, is subject to the high rent of 650*l. per annum*; a satisfactory proof of the great value of property in the central parts of this trading city. The proprietorship is vested in one hundred shares, of 190*l.* each; which now, we believe, sell for considerably more than their first value. The great room, with the accommodation of newspapers, is open to strangers; but a small annual subscription is required from the inhabitants of Cork and its vicinity. Attached to the Commercial Buildings is a good hotel.

The ancient *CUSTOM HOUSE* was calculated merely for the infancy of a commercial town; and a fresh structure was erected in 1734; but this, also, proving undesirable, a fabric of more spacious proportions, and in a more appropriate situation, has been recently completed. The present building is composed of stone, and is sufficiently commodious, but can scarcely be deemed of an ornamental character.

The *CORN MARKET-HOUSE* is a respectable building, erected by the architect who designed the Exchange. It is supported by stone pillars of the Tuscan order; but is most improperly placed in the midst of narrow streets, and a crowd of domestic buildings.

Such are the public edifices connected with the trade of this

city. Our notice of its ecclesiastical structures naturally commences with an account of the

CATHEDRAL.

This structure is situated on a slight eminence, upon the border of the southern branch of the river Lee. A cathedral was erected at this place, early in the seventh century, by St. Finbarr, who became the first bishop of Cork, and was interred within the walls of his own church, where his bones, through many succeeding ages, were preserved in a silver shrine.

The cathedral-structure thus founded, was, probably, renovated at different times, in consequence of the wear of years, of the injuries inflicted by the Danes; and in attention to the increasing importance of the city. No particulars are preserved concerning the character of the ancient buildings, at any period; but we are told by Ware and Smith, that, in the early part of the seventeenth century, this church had fallen into a lamentable state of "decay and ruin," and was taken down in the year 1725. It was rebuilt, in its present form, between that date and 1735, the expense of re-edification being defrayed by a parliamentary tax, of one shilling per ton, laid on all coal and culm consumed within the city of Cork.

This cathedral is quite unworthy of the diocese to which it belongs, whether we consider its dimensions or architectural character. It is a massy, but tasteless and dull pile, composed of stone. There is no transept, and at the west end is a tower, surmounted by an octangular spire, of most inelegant proportions. The doric order is affected in the body of the building, but the windows have wooden sash frames, and no single feature of the exterior is calculated to gratify either the ordinary or the judicious examiner. The interior is distinguished from that of a parochial church, suited to a provincial town, merely by the altars and stalls, which are in a sedate and respectable mode of design. At the west end is placed a good organ.

In the immediate vicinity of the church there stood, until

recent years, a round or pillar tower, which had, undoubtedly, appertained to the foundation of St. Finbarr.

The episcopal palace, which was erected by Bishop Mann, is a handsome and commodious edifice, situated near the cathedral.

So little distinct or authentic information has been obtained concerning the history of this bishopric, between the date of its foundation and the entry of the Anglo-Normans, that we forbear to attempt any analysis of the fugitive hints afforded by the few writers upon this subject. From the subjoined enumeration of the bishops who have occupied the see since the year 1172, it will be perceived that the ecclesiastical state of the county of Cork has undergone several changes, as to episcopal arrangement; and that this district is now partitioned into three diocesses, namely, Cork and Ross, which at present constitute one see; and Cloyne. The diocess of Cork comprises ninety-four parishes; and that of Ross thirty-three. It may be here observed that five parishes, in this county, belong to the see of Ardferd. The chapters of the diocesses of Cork and Ross are each composed of a dean; a precentor; a chancellor; a treasurer, and an archdeacon; besides twelve prebendaries in Cork, and five in Ross.

Bishops of Cork.

	<i>Succ.</i>
Gregory	1172
Reginald	
O'Selbaic (died in 1205)	
Geoffry White	
Marian O'Brien	
Gilbert	1225
Laurence (died 1264)	
William of Jerpoint	1266
Reginald	1267
Robert Mac Donogh	1277
John Mac Carwill	1282
Philip of Slane	1321
Walter le Rede	1327

	Succ.
John de Baliconingham	1330
John Roche.....	1347
Gerald de Barry.....	1359
Roger Ellesmere.....	1396
Gerald	1406
Patrick Ragged (resigned 1417)	
Milo Fitz-John	1418

Bishops of Cork and Cloyne.

Jordan*	1431
Gerald Fitz-Richard	1464
William Roche	1479
Thady Mac Carthy.....	1490
Gerald (resigned 1499).....	
John Fitz-Edmund.....	1499
Dominick Tirrey	1536
Roger Skiddy.....	1557
Richard Dixon	1570
Matthew Sheyn	1572

Bishops of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross.

William Lyon†	1583
John Boyle‡	1618

* We are informed by Ware, that, "upon the death of Milo Fitz-John, the custody of the see of Cork was, for a time, committed to the Bishop of Ardfert and the Archdeacon of Cork. But, before the close of the year 1430, Jordan, Chancellor of Limerick, was, by the provision of Pope Martin V. advanced to the bishoprics of Cork and Cloyne, both vacant at one time, and then canonically united." Ware's Bishops, &c. p. 562.

† William Lyon was consecrated bishop of Ross in 1582. In the year following he obtained the sees of Cork and Cloyne, to be held during the pleasure of the crown; which sees were annexed, under letters patent, to that of Ross, in the person of this prelate, by Queen Elizabeth, A. D. 1586.

‡ Elder brother to Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork. He held Ross in commendam, with the bishoprics of Cork and Cloyne.

	Succ.
Richard Boyle*	1690

Bishop of Cork and Ross.

William Chappel.....	1638
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Bishops of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross.

Michael Boyle.....	1660
Edward Synge	1663

Bishops of Cork and Ross.

Edward Wetenhall	1678
Dive Downs	1699
Peter Brown	1709
Robert Clayton	1733
Jemmet Browne.....	1745
Isaac Mann.....	1772
Euseby Cleaver	1789
William Foster	1789
William Bennett.....	1790
Thomas Stopford	1794
Lord John George Beresford.....	1805
THOMAS ST. LAWRENCE	1807

Cork comprises seven parishes, or Unions, each of which has a church; but neither of these buildings is calculated to afford gratification to the architectural or antiquarian examiner.

The Church of St. Anne, Shandon, is seated upon a considerable eminence, on the northern side of the city. At the west end is a square tower, surmounted by a graduating turret, of three stories. The whole of the steeple is stated by Dr. Smith to

* Brother to Michael Boyle, bishop of Waterford and Lismore. As a circumstance honourable to the memory of this prelate, and worthy of recollection in topographical inquiries, we must not omit to notice that he is said "to have repaired more ruinous churches, and consecrated more new ones, than any other bishop in that age." Ware, p. 566.

be 170 feet in height, and is obviously disproportionate to the fabric which it is intended to adorn. The interior has a gallery on the north side and at the west end, and is provided with an organ. This church was commenced in the year 1732, on the foundation of the old church of St. Mary, Shandon.

Christ-Church, otherwise the *Church of the Holy Trinity*, is a large but plain building, composed of stone. It was rebuilt in 1720, and was originally ornamented with a steeple; but that part of the structure was raised on so bad a foundation, that doubts were entertained as to its safety; and the steeple was taken down about the year 1750. The tower is still standing to the height of the roof of the church, but leans considerably.

The remaining churches, in addition to the cathedral, which acts as the parochial place of worship for the union termed St. Finbarr's, are thus designated: *St. Mary, Shandon*; *St. Nicholas*; *St. Paul's*; and *St. Peter's*. Neither of these buildings presents any attractions for the curious visiter, nor does either of them contain any antiquities, monumental or otherwise, to demand notice from the topographer.

The principal *Roman Catholic Chapel* is of recent erection, and is a spacious and very handsome structure. The chief efforts of the artist, as is usual in buildings of this description, are directed to the interior, which is highly ornamented, and is, indeed, productive of a magnificent effect. There are three altars, and the dimensions of the chapel are stated to be as follow: length, 102 feet; breadth of the nave and side-aisles, 62 feet; length of the transept, 90 feet; height of the vaulting, 42 feet.

There is a Roman Catholic chapel in each of the parishes, inclusive of those appertaining to friaries, and a nunnery; and there are, also, in this city, several meeting-houses for various classes of dissenters.

Numerous monastic foundations existed previously to the reformation.

The *abbey of St. Barr*, or Finbarr, was founded about the year 600, by St. Finbarr, and was refounded in 1134, for regular

canons following the rule of St. Augustin. At the dissolution the possessions of this abbey, together with monastic property in the county of Tipperary, was granted to Cormac Mac Teige Mac Carthy. The last vestiges of the buildings were destroyed about the year 1745.—A monastery for conventual Franciscans, termed the *Grey Friary*, was founded in 1314, by Dermot Mac Carthy Reagh. The buildings stood on the north side of the city, but are now entirely demolished.—A Dominican Friary, called the *Abbey of St. Mary of the Island*, was founded by the Barry family, in 1329. The buildings stood on an island named Cross Green, upon the south side of the city, and were entirely taken down early in the eighteenth century.—An *Augustinian Friary*, or house for friars following the rule of St. Augustin, was founded, also on the south side of the town, in the reign of Edward I. Some remains of the buildings, consisting chiefly of the tower and walls of the church, were used as a sugar-house, and for other trading purposes, in the early years of the eighteenth century.—A nunnery, called the *Nunnery of St. John the Baptist*, was founded in the fourteenth century by William and John de Barry. The buildings were situated near the spot on which the market-house now stands, but were long since destroyed. The site of this religious house was accidentally ascertained, in the year 1740, by the discovery of some antient tombs, on digging for the foundation of a building in the vicinity of the market house.—A priory, or hospital, for the support of Lepers, was founded, at an early but unknown date, in the south suburbs of the city, under the name of the *Priory of St. Stephen*. At the dissolution the property of this house was granted to the city of Cork, and the charitable institution, termed the *Blue-coat Hospital*, was afterwards established on the site of the buildings. There were, also, a *Carmelite Friary*, and a *Preceptory of Knights-Templars*; but very little is at present known concerning either of these foundations.

The following are the public establishments instituted in this city for the advancement of arts, science, and letters.

The Cork Institution is described, in its charter of incorpora-

tion, as "a public Institution for diffusing the knowledge, and facilitating the general introduction of all improvements in arts and manufactures, especially agriculture; and for teaching, by courses of philosophical lectures and experiments, the application of science to the common purposes of life." An agricultural society had existed in the county of Cork, previous to the establishment of this institution, but, from various causes, it had proved incompetent to the attainment of its proposed objects; and the present comprehensive association was formed on an enlarged and improved plan.

The Cork Institution was incorporated in the year 1807, and its managers have continued to pursue, with variable degrees of success, the useful objects committed to their care. The association is supported by a parliamentary grant of 3500*l. per annum*, aided by voluntary subscriptions. A contribution, to the amount of thirty guineas, is named by the bye-laws, subject to future alterations, as the qualification of a proprietor. Annual subscribers pay in proportion to the privileges which they are desirous of obtaining, the lowest yearly subscription, namely, that to the agricultural department alone, being one guinea. The amount of payment for a life subscriber, who is entitled to several of the privileges of a proprietor, is declared, by the bye-laws, to be fifteen guineas. Every annual subscriber of three guineas is admitted to the same privileges as a life-subscriber.

The appurtenances of the institution comprise a botanical garden; a library of the principal works relating to the objects of the society; an observatory; a collection of models relating to useful machinery in different arts and manufactures; a laboratory; and a museum of minerals, and other specimens of natural history. Lectures are frequently given on natural philosophy, geology, agriculture, chemistry, and botany. The collection of mineralogical and geological subjects is highly respectable, and we are pleased to observe that, in forming this assemblage, particular attention has been paid to the native productions of Ireland. A periodical work, entitled the "Munster Farmer's Magazine," is published under the auspices of the society.

The Cork Philosophical and Literary Society was established in 1819, "for the purpose of increasing and diffusing knowledge in science, literature, and the arts, by reading and discussing essays, unconnected with party-politics, or religious controversy." According to the laws of this establishment, every member, in rotation, must give to the secretary an original essay, which is first read to the society, free from comment. On a succeeding evening the same essay is read for discussion, when every member is at liberty to deliver his opinion, liable to be interrupted if he speak for more than ten minutes. The essays thus contributed become the absolute property of the society at large.

The Library Society was instituted in 1790. In addition to periodical works, and the best publications of the day, this society possesses an extensive general library, besides a large collection of maps and charts.

The Cork Society for promoting the Fine Arts, was established about the year 1815, for the estimable purpose of eliciting and improving native talent, by an assemblage of models, casts, and other materials of study, and an annual exhibition of pictures, by the antient masters and modern candidates for fame. Such an institution is peculiarly appropriate, in a city distinguished as the birth-place of a Barry. An academy for instruction in drawing is, also, embraced in the scheme of this society. The casts are well selected, and have lately been much augmented, in number and value, by a noble collection presented by his present Majesty, when Prince Regent, at the solicitation of Lord Lintowell, one of the presidents of this society. The specimens thus manifestly bestowed, form, as we are told by the Report of the Society, on its fourth annual exhibition, "the principal part of a collection executed in Rome by command of his Holiness the Pope, under the superintendence of the Marquis Canova, and were sent to London as a present from his Holiness to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent."

The annual exhibitions of paintings comprise some efforts of native talent, and many good pictures by the old masters, lent, for the use of the exhibition, by noblemen and gentry

possessing collections of pictures in the south of Ireland. The claims of this institution on public patronage are so obvious, that it would be a reproach to a great commercial city, to suppose that it could droop for want of encouragement.

The *Charitable Institutions* are numerous; and of a character highly creditable to the discrimination, as well as the benevolence, of the inhabitants.

The following are the principal *Schools* for the gratuitous education of poor children.

St. Stephen's, or the Blue-coat Hospital, for the maintenance and education of poor boys, was founded in the reign of Charles II, by Dr. Edward Worth, bishop of Killaloe, and some time dean of Cork. For many years subsequent to the date of foundation, the lands of which the endowment consists, produced but trifling a rental, that not more than eight boys were received into the house. The increase of value in this property has progressively become considerable; and forty boys are now instructed by means of the charity, and provided with food and clothing. When arrived at a competent age, they are apprenticed to trades, or the sea service, with a premium of five pounds. The school-house is situated in the south-eastern suburb of the city, and comprises apartments for the boys, and a residence for the master.

The *Green-coat Hospital* was founded in 1715; and the buildings were completed in the following year, by means of subscriptions from several benevolent individuals, on a plot of waste ground, adjoining the site of the ancient church of St. Mary Shandon, which structure was destroyed in the civil wars of the seventeenth century. This foundation was originally designed for the maintenance and instruction of thirty boys and ten girls. The buildings, besides rooms for the reception of the children, and suitable apartments for the master, comprise a small library.

The *Protestant Free School*, under the patronage of her Royal Highness Princess Augusta, was instituted in 1806, for the instruction of children of both sexes, in the principles of the established church; and continues to prosper under the care of

ladies and gentlemen who humanely devote a portion of their time to a superintendence of its concerns. Not less than 300 children receive instruction by means of this establishment; and many whose destitute situation requires peculiar aid, receive occasional food and clothing, through the channel of a separate subscription for those purposes.

The *Parochial Female School*, of Christ Church parish, was commenced in 1813, and is supported by the voluntary subscription of the parishioners. About sixty children are instructed in reading, writing, spinning, and needle-work; and receive such articles of clothing as the funds of the society allow to be distributed.

Very extensive schools, of a more general character, for the education of poor children, were established at Cork, in the year 1791. The mode of tuition usually called Lancasterian has been adopted, with success, in a part of these institutions. The whole of the establishments afford instruction to more than 1500 boys, many of whom are clothed, and apprenticed to trades. These schools are entirely supported by voluntary subscriptions.

The *North Sunday and Daily Schools* were established in 1811, for the instruction, and, as far as the funds shall permit, for the assistance in food and raiment, of *poor children of every religious persuasion*.

Pomeroy's School, situated to the south-east of the cathedral, was founded, together with a library, by Archdeacon Pomeroy. The school is intended for the education of ten boys, to be recommended by the Bishop of Cork. The scheme of tuition is on a liberal scale, and includes grammar, geography, geometry, and history.

A *Charity School*, in Christ Church-lane, was instituted and endowed by Mrs. Shearman, in 1742, for the educating of fifteen poor protestant boys; and, also, a *Charity School* in Peter's Street was endowed by Mrs. Shearman, in which ten boys are educated and clothed, until of a sufficient age to be apprenticed to useful trades.

The institutions for gratuitous education among the Catholics

are numerous, and very creditable to the industry and liberality of persons in this city, professing that form of religion. Among these are two houses for female children, under the care of the communities termed the *Presentation*. These establishments are conducted by ladies of some property, who have devoted themselves to the pious and honourable labours of eleemosynary tuition, some for a certain term, and others for life.

The principal associations for the succour of indigence and disease, particularly as connected with infancy, old age, and casualty, may be thus enumerated.

The Workhouse and Foundling Hospital. The governors of this meritorious establishment are incorporated, by act of parliament. This charity, which opens widely its arms for the maintenance and education of children voluntarily relinquished by their wretched parents, is chiefly maintained by a tax, of one shilling per ton, on all coals imported into Cork.

The Orphan Asylum was established in 1806, for the shelter and sustenance of 100 orphans, left in a destitute situation. This institution is supported by voluntary contributions.

The Magdalen Asylum, for the reformation of penitent females, otherwise lost to themselves and the world, was founded by Nicholas Therry, Esq, and was opened on the first day of January, 1809. This institution, which is entitled to the best exertions of public patronage, is partly supported by a bequest from the founder, but is chiefly dependant on the subscriptions of the liberal, and the money accruing from the industry of the penitents.

A Dispensary and Humane Society were instituted in 1787, for the purposes of administering advice and medicine to the poor, and for the recovery of persons apparently drowned.

The Lying-in Hospital affords assistance to about 400 patients, in the course of one year. The Bishop of Cork acts as treasurer and secretary.

The North Charitable Infirmary, containing twenty-two beds, was founded in 1790; and the South Charitable Infirmary, in which are thirty beds, was established in 1792. The members of both these institutions are incorporated, and the objects of the charities are advanced by annual grants from parliament.

The *House of Recovery*, established in 1803, is designed for the reception and medical care of patients labouring under fever.

The *Benevolent Society*, instituted in 1795, "for the purposes of seeking out and relieving distressed objects, of every religious denomination, labouring under the united pressure of sickness and want," is an establishment obviously desirable in a large city, free from compulsory levies for the assistance of the poor and diseased.

The *Indigent Room-Keeper's Society*, founded in 1808, takes rank in the scale of well-directed charity, with the institution mentioned above. Its best object is the assistance of those, who, "by age, misfortune, or infirmity, are disabled from industrious exertion."

Cork Society for the relief and discharge of persons confined for small debts, was instituted in 1774, at the benevolent suggestion of Henry Sheares, Esq.

The principal *market-place*, which occupies a central situation, is of considerable extent, and arranged with much attention to cleanliness and convenience.

Assizes are held here; but the buildings connected with the administration of justice, are not entitled to particular remark. For several ages the gaols for the city and county were confined, and very inappropriate, buildings, constructed over the north and south gates; but a county gaol, of a more eligible character, has been recently constructed, in an airy situation on the south side of the town. A new gaol for the city has been also commenced.

The internal government of the city is intrusted to a mayor,* two sheriffs; an indeterminate number of aldermen; and a recorder. The corporation acts under a charter granted by Charles I. Although destitute of fortifications, this is considered as a garrison-town, and there are a military governor, lieutenant governor, and town-major. Here are barracks for four regiments of infantry and one thousand horse. These barracks

* The mayor is provided with an official residence, and is allowed a handsome salary, for the maintenance of hospitality. Such persons as have served the office of mayor, become aldermen.

are situated on St. Patrick's hill, and command the city, together with extensive views over the surrounding country. As a circumstance connected with military affairs, we may add, that, at the distance of about three miles from the city, on the banks of the river Lee, are very extensive mills for the manufacture of gunpowder, which are, at present, in the hands of government.

Cork returns two members to the Imperial parliament, and gives the title of earl, in the peerage of Ireland, to the family of Boyle, who have large estates in this neighbourhood.

The *trade* of Cork is very extensive, particularly in times of war, for which it is chiefly indebted to the excellence of its harbour, and the convenience of the navigable river on which it is situated. Among the various branches of commerce here pursued, the provision trade is of the greatest importance. Dr. Campbell terms Cork "the great shambles of the kingdom." The provision exported consists of beef, pork, and butter. These articles are chiefly sent to the West Indies, or used by the British fleets. We are told, by Mr. Wakefield, that the average number of oxen slaughtered annually is calculated at 10,000, and that of cows at 8,000. Since the time at which that estimate was made (the year 1808), the trade in beef has experienced a great decrease, in consequence of the cessation of war. The quantity of butter exported in some years, has been not less than 160,000 *cwt.* All the linens and woollen goods sent from the south, are shipped at this port. The other principal articles of export are hides, tallow, corn, porter, and spirits. The porter-brewery of Cork is on a larger scale than that of any other in Ireland; and here are several distilleries, which send spirits to England. The imports are chiefly for the supply of the city and neighbouring districts, but are of less consequence than would be expected from the amount of population. The principal intercourse is with Bristol, Liverpool, and London.*

* Formerly, foreign vessels were received into a canal, which flowed nearly over the site of the present Castle-street. Here they were enclosed, by means of a portcullis, between the two forts termed the King's and the Queen's Castles. In allusion to these local circumstances, the city arms is a ship between two castles, with this motto: *Statio bene fida carinis.*

Manufactures, although of secondary importance, in a consideration of the trade at this place, are cultivated with some alacrity and success. They chiefly relate to clothing for the army; serges; sail-cloth; paper; leather; glass; and glue.

The *places of public amusement* are not so numerous, or on so costly a scale, as might be thought likely from the extent and consequence of the city. It is, indeed, observable that the inhabitants of this, as of most other towns in Ireland, are inclined to private rather than public festivities. The theatre, which was built under the direction of Barry, and opened in 1760, is now sinking rapidly to decay. The assembly-room is very large, but is more remarkable for size than for elegance of decoration. The profits arising from the use of this spacious place of recreation, are devoted to charitable purposes.

Whilst we are thus constrained to state the paucity of buildings designed for public amusement, we have the opportunity of saying, from experience, that the style of living amongst the principal inhabitants, and the splendour of private entertainments, are on a scale quite commensurate with the presumed opulence of a great trading city. We must not quit the grateful themes of gaiety and recreation, without observing that there is, on the west side of the town, a fine walk, raised above the level of the adjoining fields, and planted, on each side, with flourishing elms. This place of public promenade is called the *Mardyke walk*, and is about one English mile in length. Dr. Campbell, writing in 1775, mentions this walk as the resort of only "the lower sort" of people; and it is, at present, less frequented than is desirable, on account of the miserable character of the streets, or rather alleys, through which it is approached. It is proposed, however, to open a new street to this western part of the town.

Amongst the most eminent *Natives* must be mentioned JAMES BARRY, the historical painter, who was born on the 11th of October, 1741. This highly-gifted, but eccentric, man was the son of a person in humble life, and his struggles with circumstances adverse to the cultivation of genius, commenced at an early period.

His wayward temper, however, predisposed him to find a sullen luxury in the sustenance of miseries. We are told that "he was constitutionally ascetic, exhibiting in early youth a predilection for those hardships and privations in which his subsequent fortunes so boantly indulged him. He loved to sit up all night, drawing, or transcribing from books; and, whenever he allowed himself *the recreation of sleep*, he preferred the boards to his bed." His first patron was Dr. Keogh, of Cork; and, at the age of two and twenty, he attracted the notice of his distinguished countryman, Edmund Burke, under whose protection he moved to England, and visited Rome. The leading circumstances in his life, after he settled in London for the exercise of his art, are well known.

By the united powers of great natural genius and intense application, he raised himself to high distinction, as an historical, or, rather, as an epic, painter. His splendid composition, "*The Victors at Olympia*," has been considered as his finest production; but the work of greatest labour, and that, perhaps, by which he is best known, is his series of pictures, allegorically illustrative of the culture and progress of human knowledge. This grand undertaking he performed, gratuitously, for the Society established in London for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce; and the pictures now decorate the great room of that Society. They were exhibited for the benefit of the artist, but the exhibition produced no more than the sum of 500*l.* to which 200*l.* was added by a vote of the society. Such was the pecuniary recompense for seven years labour, obtained, in the eighteenth century, by a genius of the highest order! The strong prejudices, and extreme irritability, of Barry, rendered such parts of his life as were not passed in professional pursuits, a continued scene of warfare with society; and, in alleviation of our regret, whilst reflecting on the privations caused by his extreme poverty, it may, we believe, be said, with mournful truth, that so gloomy and peculiar a cast of mind would not have been calculated to extract enjoyment from affluence. He died on the 22nd of February, 1806; and his remains were interred, with due solemnity, in St. Paul's cathedral.

John Butts, a painter of figures and landscapes, was likewise a native of this city. He did not attain much eminence in his art, and is chiefly known as having been scene-painter, for several seasons, at Crow-street theatre, when that house was under the direction of Spranger Barry.

James Cavanagh Murphy, if not a native of Cork, resided here in the early part of his life, engaged in the humble occupation of a bricklayer. Evincing considerable talents for drawing, he obtained such patronage as enabled him to visit the British metropolis. He afterwards passed several years in Spain and Portugal; and, during his residence in those countries, collected materials for his valuable works, the "*Arabian Antiquities of Spain*," "*Plans of the Church of Batalha*," &c. Mr. Murphy is stated, in Croker's "*Researches*," to have died in London, about the year 1814.

The population of Cork has considerably increased within the last quarter of a century. In the year 1813, the number of houses was 7,652, and of inhabitants 64,394. In 1821, the numbers were: houses 12,175; inhabitants 100,535; thus giving an increase of inhabitants, in eight years, to the number of 36,141.

The country around Cork, throughout a district extending from three to four miles, in most directions, is termed the *Liberties*, or *County of the City*. This tract is thickly studded with villas, dissimilar in size and character, together with houses for the accommodation of lodgers in the summer months. The banks of the river afford the most favoured spots, and many of the villas there constructed are greatly ornamental to the vicinity of the city.

The whole course of the river Lee, between the city of Cork and the Harbour, is replete with animation and interest. The banks of the river, for the two miles nearest to the city, form into hills of considerable elevation; and the handsome dwellings, which enrich their sides, are usually tinted white, and are, in most instances, decorated with thriving plantations.* At the

* When Arthur Young visited this neighbourhood, in 1776, there were few houses on the borders of the river, but he emphatically remarked,

distance of five miles and a half from Cork, the voyager on this river arrives at *PASSAGE*. Here all ships, of more than 200 tons burthen, unload for the port of Cork, in consequence of a bar in the river, which prevents their further progress. Still farther towards the harbour, we see *Monkstown*, an object of some curiosity on account of the remains of a castle, which, however, are of no great antiquity, the building having been erected about the year 1638. This place contains several houses for the accommodation of bathers.

The *Harbour of Cork*, which is distant from the city about eight miles, is one of the most capacious and secure havens in the British empire. "The outward entrance," writes Dr. Smith, "is scarce half a league over; but, having passed a bank, called the Turbot's bank, on which are thirty feet water, in the shoalest places, the entrance narrows to about half a mile." There are, in this great basin, several islands, two of which are named *Spike* and *Halbowlin*. These two islands, continues Dr. Smith, "are so providentially placed, that they break off all the fury of the wind and tide, so that vessels, when they are in, lie land-locked; the former sheltering them from the fury of the sea and southerly winds, and the latter breaking off the strength of the ebb and land floods, which are also much abated by the tides having a passage out by another channel, on the back of the Great Island."

This fine harbour is now the fixed station of a port admiral, and is the frequent resort of ships of war, and fleets of traders to the West Indies. The lands about it are high and bold, particularly on both sides of the narrow entrance from St. George's Channel. On the steep elevations in these directions, are erected two forts, named Camden and Carlisle forts, which are provided with formidable batteries. Very strong works have, also, been

"that the country on the harbour he thought to be preferable, in many respects, for a residence, to any thing he had seen in Ireland;" and he gave several reasons for this opinion, among which are the following: "First, it is the most southerly part of the kingdom. Second, there are very great beauties of prospect. Third, by much the most animated, busy, scene of shipping in all Ireland."

constructed, within the last few years, on Spike and Halbowlin islands. On the former are extensive barracks; and on the latter a dock-yard, and various buildings composing a naval arsenal, on a large scale.

On the north of the harbour is an insulated tract, of considerable extent, called the GREAT ISLAND.* This isle is, in general, of a fertile character, and communicates with the main land, on the north side, by a bridge. Its southern shores lie open to the noble expansion of the harbour; and, in this part of the island, stands the town of COVE, a place which, during the war, was rapidly increasing in extent and consequence. The principal proprietors are Lord Midleton, and Smith Barry, Esq.; and the great augmentations of this sea-port town, in recent years, took place under the auspices of his lordship, and by desire of the late Hugh Smith Barry, Esq. Previous to the interference of these spirited proprietors, Cove was a humble village, consisting, chiefly, of mean cabins. On the part belonging to the family of Barry, an extensive quay has been constructed; and several good streets have been formed on the lands of both proprietors. The town is built partly on the margin of the shore, but chiefly on different stages in the ascent of a lofty hill, which rises immediately from the waters of the harbour. A new church, and Roman Catholic chapel, have been completed. The former is a commodious and neat building, designed in imitation of the pointed style of architecture. It was finished, and opened for divine service, in 1811.

The Great Island (called formerly *the Island of Barrymore*, on account of it having been long possessed by that family) combines, as a place of residence, the advantages noticed by Mr. Arthur Young, and contains several handsome and well-placed seats. MARINO, long the seat of the family of French, is situated

* Dr. Smith mentions, on the authority of Keating, a "memorable battle, fought at Ard-Neimheidh, i.e. the Great Island, between Niadh Nuaget, and Angus, monarch of Ireland; in which conflict the former recovered the crown of Munster from the latter." Smith's Hist. of Cork, vol. ii, p. 19.

at the western end of the island, and commands an extensive view over the river towards Cork, and the highly-improved country in its vicinity. BELGROVE, belonging to a branch of the Bagwell family, occupies a fine position, near the eastern extremity of the island.* In different parts are several pleasing modern villas.

The small ISLAND OF FOATY lies to the north of Great Island, and contains the spacious seat of Smith Barry, Esq. enriched with extensive and flourishing plantations. This gentleman is descended from a junior branch of the family of Barry, Earls of Barrymore.

ROSTELLAN CASTLE, the seat of the Marquess of Thomond, is situated on the eastern borders of the harbour, and presents a striking object to vessels entering this haven. The antient castle was built by Robert Fitzstephen de Marisco, and was twice assailed and captured in the year 1645. The present mansion was erected on the ruins of that fortress, and has been considerably enlarged and improved by the late and present marquess. The situation of this place is extremely fine, and commands an unequalled view of the grand and animated harbour. The grounds are well-planted, and are rich in luxuriant evergreens, a sure indication of the great mildness of climate in this southern tract of country. Near the water is an elevated terrace, from which the views of the harbour, its fortifications, and varied shipping, are peculiarly attractive and inspiring.

* Belgrove is noticed by Smith, writing about 1748, as "the pleasant seat of John Harper, Esq. of Cork." The following description, by that author, conveys correct ideas of the embellished pleasure grounds attached to Irish mansions, in the middle years of the last century. "From a fine terrace over the gardens is an agreeable prospect of the eastern channel of the island, which is here broad and deep, forming a noble basin. This terrace is near a quarter of an English mile long, broad and high, adorned with vases, urns, &c. and is the finest of the kind in this county. Beneath the terrace is a pretty bowling-green, with gardens and pleasant walks. To the south is a spreading grove, which covers a hilly country, down to the water's edge." Smith, &c. vol. 4. p. 165.

At a short distance from Rostellan is **CORKBEG**, the seat of Robert Uniacke Fitz-Gerald, Esq. built near the ruins of an old castle, which Smith mentions "as having belonged, according to report, to one of the Condons, for whom there is an old tomb in the decayed church of Corkbeg."

COOLMORE, the handsome mansion of William W. Newenham, Esq. is situated on the north side of the channel that runs from the harbour to Carigaline. This estate has long been conspicuous for the exemplary agricultural management of its successive proprietors. When Arthur Young wrote his *Tour in Ireland*, Coolmore was the seat of Archdeacon Oliver, which gentleman is termed by that tourist "the capital farmer of all this neighbourhood." Mr. Newenham has, likewise, bestowed much successful attention on the improvement of agriculture. It may not be superfluous to observe that, in consequence of the great increase in the number of villa-residences in this part of the country, the annual value of good demesne land is now not less than ten pounds an acre.

At the distance of about four miles from Cork is the village of **GLANMIRE**, situated near the head of a small inlet, on the north side of the river Lee. The country is here particularly beautiful. The rivulet on which the village is seated, pursues its brief course towards the Lee through several picturesque glens, screened on both sides by hills, richly clothed with wood. So agreeable a retirement, at so moderate a distance from the city, has induced the erection of numerous villas, many of which are truly enviable for charms of situation. Amongst these may be noticed the following.

LOTA, on the west side of the inlet, was built by a foreign architect, for the late Robert Rogers, Esq. The design is in a pleasing style of architecture, and the grounds, which were formerly more extensive than at present, possess great richness and variety.

Near the mouth of the inlet, and on its eastern side, is **DUNKETTLE**. A seat on this spot was the residence of Richard Tonson, Esq. in the middle of the eighteenth century. The present handsome mansion was erected, a few years back, by Abraham Morris, Esq. The ground of this demesne, sloping to the south and west, admits of river-views peculiarly comprehensive. It is well observed by Mr. Townsend, that "all the situations on the river Lee are fine, but none of them enjoy so extensive a combination of beauties as Dunkettle. Without standing high, it sees more, and in a better point of view; and it possesses one advantage which all the others want, a considerable extent of well-shaped and well-planted lawn in front."

GLYNETHOWN, a handsome villa on the north side of Glanmire, was built by the late Samuel M'Call, Esq.; and, at the northern extremity of this attractive neighbourhood, is **RYENSTOWN**, the seat of Jemmet Browne, Esq. This last-named mansion was formerly the residence of Dr. Jemmet Browne, bishop of Cork, under whose care the house and grounds received their principal ornaments. Smith, who was contemporary with bishop Browne, mentions the stucco enrichments in several of the apartments "as having been performed by the Franchinis, brothers. The river of Glanmire," adds this writer, "runs through the gardens, banked into serpentine canals. A pleasant park, stocked with deer, comes close to the garden-walls." The grounds of this very respectable seat abound in aged timber, and the whole demesne wears an air of dignified seclusion.

BLACK-ROCK, a populous and gay village, is situated on a peninsula of the river Lee, at the distance of about three miles from Cork. Not more than thirty years back, this place consisted chiefly of a few fishers' cabins, and the dwellings of officers in the revenue department. It is now become a favourite village of retirement with the merchants and traders of the neighbouring city; and the houses for their accommodation are very numerous,

and, in some instances, of a pleasing character. The luxury of salt-water bathing adds greatly to the attractions of these retreats. Black-Rock Castle was originally a circular tower, erected for the protection of the river, by the Lord Deputy Mountjoy, early in the reign of James I. In that state it nearly resembled the block houses, built in the time of Henry VIII. for the defence of the entrance to the Southampton water, and other parts of the English coast. The corporation of Cork added a large octagonal room, and some other buildings, in 1722. Here, when Smith wrote his work on this county, the mayors held an admiralty court, as chartered admirals of the harbour; and they still periodically assert their privileges. Annually, on the 1st of August, the mayor and corporation sail to the entrance of the harbour, at which time they throw a dart into the sea, to denote their right of jurisdiction. Near Black-Rock castle, Lady Chatterton has a handsome residence, termed Castle Mahon.

BLARNEY CASTLE, situated to the north-west of Cork, at the distance of rather more than three miles from that city, is the seat of George Charles Jefferyes, Esq. The buildings consist of the remains of an antient castellated pile, with an attached mansion, of modern construction. The castle of Blarney was built about the middle of the fifteenth century, by Cormac Mac Carthy, or Carty, surnamed *Laidir*, or the strong, a chieftain of great power in this part of Ireland, whose family were remarkable for their steady adherence to the English interest, with some few exceptions, indicative of vacillation rather than determinate abandonment. The head of this branch of the Mac Carthys assumed the title of Lord Muskery, as lord of the soil, and was summoned to parliament as Baron of Blarney, in the reign of Elizabeth. He was created Viscount Muskery, and Earl of Clancarty, in the year 1658.

In the reign of Elizabeth this castle was described, by the author of *Pacata Hibernia*, as a fabric composed of four piles joined together, having walls eighteen feet in thickness. Its situation on a rock secured it from the efforts of the miner, and it

was strongly flanked at each angle. When Cormac Mac Dermot Carty, Lord Muskerry, was accused of disaffection, in 1600, he was compelled to surrender the castle of Blarney to Captain Taffe, for the use of the queen. It was, however, restored to him on his being again received into favour by government; and his family lived here, in the exercise of loyalty and the enjoyment of peace, until called into action by the evil genius which prevailed in 1641. Lord Muskerry, constant in his attachment to the crown, then repaired to arms in the royal cause. In the year 1646, his castle was captured by Lord Broghill, afterwards Earl of Orrery; but was restored to its antient owners by King Charles II. In the civil wars between James II. and King William, it was at one time used as a prison for protestants of Cork, ordered into confinement by Lord Clare; and was not surrendered to the forces of William, without an obstinate struggle. After the submission of Cork, in 1691, the Earl of Clancarty was sentenced to exile, and his title and estates were declared forfeited. Blarney Castle, and contiguous lands, were purchased from the crown, shortly after the act of forfeiture, by Sir James Jefferyes, in whose descendant they are still vested.

The remains of the castle* consist of one square and massive tower, of large dimensions, having few regular windows, but many apertures for the discharge of missiles. It is seated on the northern side of a ridge of limestone rock, which rises from a deep valley, and extends about one mile in length. The rock on which the castle is placed, is precipitous, and at its base flows the Awmartin, a small river of considerable beauty. Much wood enriches this demesne, and adds greatly to the romantic charms of the scenery. Attached to the east side of the antient tower is

* A trivial circumstance occurs, that is, perhaps, scarcely entitled to the notice of the topographer. In the highest part of the castle is a stone, usually pointed out to the visitor, which is said to have the power of imparting to the person who kisses it, the un-enviable privilege of hazarding, without a blush, that species of romantic assertion, which many term falsehood. Hence the phrase of *Blarney*, applied to such violations of accuracy in narration.

a spacious mansion, which constitutes the present residence, and was erected by Sir James Jefferyes, the purchaser of this estate, in the early part of the eighteenth century. The time was unfavourable to beauty of domestic architecture, or justness of *keeping*. The building is, accordingly, destitute of all appropriate allusions to the castellated style of the massive structure to which it is attached. Among some pictures preserved at this seat, is a full length portrait of Charles XII. of Sweden, which is, probably, an original, and was brought hither by James Jefferyes, Esq. son of Sir James, who had been envoy to the court of Sweden.

The attached grounds* are rich in natural circumstances, often judiciously cultivated. The scenery of a reclusé vale, termed the Rock Close, is so exquisitely beautiful that no just idea of its romantic influence over the feelings can be conveyed by the tameness of prosaic description. It would, indeed, appear to be formed by nature, and nursed by art, as a retreat for the poet, the lover, and others "of imagination all compact." To the south-west of the castle is a lake, which, although so near to the favouring circumstances of rock and wood, possesses little of the picturesque.†

The village of Blarney has, within the last half century, undergone more vicissitudes than are, perhaps, likely to occur, in the same number of years, to any town, or village, out of Ireland. In the year 1765, this place consisted merely of a few mud cabins. About that time the late proprietor of the estate commenced a new town, with the laudable and patriotic

* In celebration of this place was written a song, well known in the south of Ireland, and called "The Groves of Blarney." This strange production is attributed to the pen of the late Mr. Milliken, and is an imitation of the cobbler's song on Castle Hyde, in this county.

† Mr. Croker mentions a tradition, very generally believed, according to which, "before Blarney surrendered to King William's forces, Lord Clancarty's plate was made up in an oaken chest, which was thrown into this lake, and has not since been recovered." In the same pleasing work on the south of Ireland, is a wood-cut, representing the "signet-ring of Donogh Mac Carty More, which was lately sold by a peasant to a watch-maker in Cork." *Researches, &c.* p. 307.

view of establishing at Blarney several manufactories. A great command of water much favoured this project; and it would, probably, have been attended with more success, if the design had been on a less extensive scale. A particular account of these undertakings is given in the second volume of Mr. Young's Tour. From that work, and other sources of information, it appears that Mr. Jefferyes, besides expending considerable sums himself, obtained grants of public money, for the furtherance of his very desirable objects. From various causes, however, none of which were derived from a want of liberality, or fostering spirit, in the projector, the design has not realized the sanguine expectations formed in its infancy; and, from its present aspect, we fear that Blarney is not destined to become a permanent manufacturing town.

The new town, planned and built by Mr. Jefferyes, was, in many respects, of a pleasing, though certainly not of an appropriate character. The houses are, we believe, about ninety in number. The principal of these were formed into a square, having a statue in the centre. The founder had travelled much, in the early part of his life, and had imbibed a taste for ornaments on domestic buildings, which he applied to the decoration of these dwellings for manufacturers. The consequence was obvious:—such superfluous circumstances of embellishment were derided by the rich, and viewed with indifference by the tenants and the poor. Many of the dwellings are now dilapidated, and the area of the square, prematurely honoured with a statue, was lately under the operation of the plough or spade, and yellow in corn.

Among the buildings erected by Mr. Jefferyes was a church, of some elegance in design, but it is to be regretted that the materials and workmanship were equally indifferent, and such as render it unlikely that the structure will prove of long duration.*

* A curious instance of ardour in commencing an undertaking, without perseverance to carry it into complete effect, is thus noticed, at Blarney, by Mr. Townsend, and is mentioned by that writer, as "a whimsical specimen of the levity of national temper." The town stands a little to

CLOYNE, the see of a bishop, but otherwise a town of no great consideration, is situated on a gentle eminence that rises from the southern vale of Imokilly, at the distance of about two miles from Cork harbour, towards the west. We are told that the bishopric of Cloyne was founded in the sixth century, by St. Colman, who was the disciple of St. Finbar, bishop of Cork. It is believed that an abbey was also founded here, in the year 707. But, notwithstanding these ecclesiastical foundations, the usual harbingers of civic prosperity, it does not appear that Cloyne ever rose superior to the character of a large village. The Fitzgeralds, seneschals of Imokilly, had a residence here; and it is recorded that a skirmish took place near the town, between the seneschal and Sir Walter Raleigh, in which the last-named commander behaved with conspicuous gallantry.

The *Cathedral* is a small building, and acts, also, as the parochial church; it has no tower, or steeple, of any kind. The early and simple modification of pointed architecture, of which the lancet arch is the prevailing characteristic, pervades the eastern and most ancient part of the cathedral, with the exception of the large east window, which is in a more elaborate style of design. The simplicity of this division of the church is, however, not free from innovation. The choir was repaired in 1776,*

the northward of the castle, on the west side of the river. To the east is a large and level plain. "Through this Mr. Jefferyes had intended to draw the course of the river, chiefly, perhaps, with a view to improve the prospect from his castle. A handsome stone bridge was, accordingly, built; but the cutting of a new channel, protracted from time to time during the life of the undertaker, still remains to be done. Some years ago the place presented the curious spectacle of a river without a bridge, and a bridge without a river!" Survey, &c. vol. ii. pp. 148-2.

* The following discovery, connected with these repairs, is recorded by Sir R. Hoare. "In erecting the present cross-wall, at the entrance of the choir, in 1776, as the workmen dug deep in the nave, to lay the foundation, they discovered a row of graves, of a singular construction, consisting of brick cells, exactly suited to the size and shape of the body contained in each; and one of them ended at the shoulders; nor were any of the skull bones to be found with the body. It is, therefore, not impro-

under the direction of bishop Agar ; and, at that time, Italian ornaments were injudiciously blended with its more austere lineaments. There are no monuments, of any high antiquity, but the following epitaph, from the pen of the late Mrs. Piozzi, demands our attention :—

From this vault shall,
At the last day, ascend
The reanimated body of
Susan Adams !
More fair, more lovely, and more excellent
(Since with our God all things are possible)
Than when, at 18 years of age,
She left a circle of admiring friends,
To seek the wreath bestowed
On meekness, piety, and virtue.
Whilst, by setting up this sublunary token of remembrance,
A momentary consolation has been lent
To her afflicted mother.

June, 1804.

HESTER LYNCH PIOZZI.

The church yard is large, and acquires a secluded and grateful effect from numerous well-grown trees, which were chiefly planted by Bishop Maule, about the year 1730. Within the bounds of this cemetery are the ruins of a small building, appearing to be of considerable antiquity, and locally called *St. Colman's Chapel*.

At a short distance from the church, towards the west, is a fine and lofty round, or pillar, tower. The height of this tower, according to the historian Smith, is 92 feet, and the diameter 10 feet.*

hable that the head of the owner may have been fixed on Cork gates, in the times of turbulence ; as they appear, from the print given us of that city, in the *Pucata Hibernia*, to be full of these trophies." Sir R. Hoare, *opud Cloyne MSS.*

* The pillar-tower of Cloyne suffered considerable damage from lightning, in the night of the 10th of January, 1749. "A flash of lightning," writes Dr. Smith, "passed from west to east, in a direct line through this county. In its progress it struck the round tower of the cathedral of Cloyne. It rent the vaulted arch at the top, tumbled down the bell and three lofts, and, passing perpendicularly to the internal floor, which is

The episcopal residence is a plain, but spacious and respectable mansion. The attached grounds are extensive, and ornamented with much wood. The plantations in these grounds unite with those of the cathedral-yard, in forming a pleasing feature of this neighbourhood, from several points of observation. It must be confessed that the town of Cloyne has little of the picturesque in its composition ; but, when it stands displayed in a favourable position, its clustering woods, surmounted by the stately shaft of the pillar-tower, bestow on it a degree of pictorial effect, that would not be expected when its component parts are viewed singly.

Smith, the historian of Cork, well remembered the days in which the celebrated Dr. Berkeley resided at the see-house of Cloyne ; and he thus mentions, with an interesting zeal of respect, the elegant taste displayed by that good prelate and brilliant scholar, in this remote part of a country then more neglected than at present. " Dr. Berkeley, when bishop of this see, successfully transplanted the polite arts, which before flourished only in a warmer soil, to this northern climate. Painting and music are no longer strangers to Ireland, nor confined to Italy. In the episcopal palace of Cloyne, the eye was entertained with a great variety of good paintings, as well as the ear with concerts of excellent music. There were here some pieces of the best masters ; as a Magdalen by Rubens ; some heads by Vandyck and Kneller ; besides several good paintings, performed in the house." Dr. Smith concludes with remarking, that this example had the

about eight feet higher than the outward foundation, the protruded column of air, or lightning, or both together, by the igneous matter bursting and expanding, and not finding sufficient room, vented itself by a violent explosion, forced its way through one side of the tower, and drove the stones, which were admirably well joined, and locked into each other, through the roof of an adjacent stable. The door, though secured by a strong iron lock, was thrown above sixty yards distant, into the church-yard, and shattered to pieces ; which passage for the air greatly contributed to the saving of the tower." *Smith's Cork*, vol. ii, p. p. 403-4.—After the demolition of the conical roof of the tower, by this stroke of lightning, an embattlement, which still remains, was placed round the top.

beneficial effect of creating a spirit of emulation among the neighbouring gentry.*

We are happy to add the tribute of our personal knowledge of the late amiable and erudite Dr. Bennett, to this commendation of a taste for elegant pursuits evinced by the philosophic Berkeley. Dr. Bennett was eminent as a classical scholar, but was chiefly distinguished, independently of studies connected with his ecclesiastical duties, by an attachment to historical and antiquarian investigations, and particularly such as related to the remains of the Romans in Britain. His deep researches, and sound judgment, in this class of antiquities, are evinced in the contributions he afforded to the several county-histories which appeared in his time. His amiable qualities, as a divine and a gentleman, must be gratefully remembered by all who had the benefit and honour of his acquaintance. We regret that the precarious state of this prelate's health, united, probably, with the prevalence of long-cherished associations, in a mind peculiarly qualified for polite and friendly intercourse, prevented his residing so much in his palace at Cloyne, as was desired by all classes within his diocese, that were capable of duly appreciating his worth.

In this town is a charity-school, of considerable utility, founded by Bishop Crowe.

In a part of the episcopal demesne, termed the Rock Meadow, which constitutes the most elevated part of Cloyne, is a very extensive *cave*, that probably imparted a name to the town; *Cluaine* signifying a cavern, in the Irish language. In this excavation a large arched passage runs, for some hundreds of yards, having four openings; and there are several branches, in different directions. There are, also, other caves, of great extent, in several parts of this neighbourhood.†

* Contemporary with Bishop Berkeley, was Dr. O'Brien, R. C. Bishop of Cloyne, author of an esteemed Irish-English Dictionary, printed at Paris, in 1762.

† In an elegant work, recently published (*Researches in the south of Ireland*, by T. Crofton Croker, Esq.) is an interesting account of the

The diocese of Cloyne lies entirely within this county.* Its extreme length, as stated by Beaufort, is nearly 50 Irish miles; and its breadth 33 miles. The chapter consists of a dean; chancellor; treasurer; archdeacon; and fourteen prebendaries. The wardenship of the church of Youghal is united to this bishopric.

We present a list of the bishops who have sat in this see, since the arrival of the English.

BISHOPS OF CLOYNE.

Succ.

Matthew (died about 1192)	
Lawrence O'Sullivan (died 1204).....	
Daniel (died 1222).....	
Florence	1224
Patrick	1226
David MacKelly (resigned 1238)	

author's descent into a cave in this neighbourhood, called *Carrig a crump*. Mr. Croker describes "the descent as being difficult, through a narrow and steep crevice of the rock." After proceeding for some distance, he entered "a chamber, of considerable size, the roof of which seemed supported by a ponderous stalactical pillar. Above appeared gloomy galleries, with entrances resembling rich gothic archways." Another part of the cave "was adorned with fewer stalactites, and was somewhat circular in shape; nearly in the centre, a single stalactical column arose, with an air of elegant lightness, out of water, the cool and sparkling appearance of which can be assimilated only to liquid crystal. Having succeeded in crossing it, he ascended a kind of terrace, so smooth and level as almost to appear artificial;" from which terrace four or five passages struck off, which were full of deep water.—*Researches, &c.* p. p. 251-8.

* When Smith wrote the history of Cork, he could "find no record, relating to the state of this diocese, further back than the year 1668;" the title deeds, and other papers, belonging to the see being lost, or destroyed in the civil wars. A document, of some use and curiosity, has been since accidentally found, called *Pipam Colman*, being a list of the estates and manors belonging to this bishopric, in 1864, composed by order of Bishop Swaffham. Bishop Bennett collected many particulars concerning this see, which he bequeathed to the registry, for the use of his successors.

	Succ.
Alan O'Sullivan	1240
Daniel	1249
Reginald	1265
Alan O'Lonergan	1274
Nicholas de Evingham	1284
Maurice O'Solehan	1320
John de Cumba	1335
John Brid	
John Whittock	1351

See Vacant two years.

John de Swaffham	1363
Richard Wye	1376
Gerald Canton	1394
Adam Pay (died 1430)	
Jordan	1431

See united to that of Cork for upwards of two hundred years.

George Synges*	1638
Edward Synges (died 1678)	
Patrick Sheridan	1679
Edward Jones	1682
William Palliser	1692
Tobias Pullen	1694
St. George Ash†	1695

* After the decease of this prelate in 1633, the see of Cloyne remained vacant until the restoration of King Charles II. when Michael Boyle was advanced to it, in conjunction with the Sees of Cork and Ross. The same three bishoprics were also united in the person of Edward Synges, successor of Michael Boyle. Since the death of Bishop Synges (1678) Cloyne has uniformly constituted a distinct see.

† Dr. Ash had been provost and vice-chancellor of the university of Dublin. He was translated from this see to Clagher, and thence to Derry. Steadfast in his attachment to the reformed religion, and to whig politics, he quitted Ireland in the reign of James II.; but returned, under the most flattering auspices of protection from the court, after the accession of King William III. He was a fellow of the Royal Society, and a

	Succ.
John Pooley,	1697
Charles Crowe,*	1702
Henry Maule,	1726
Edward Synge,	1731
George Berkeley,†	1733
James Stopford,	1753
Robert Johnson,	1759
Hon. Frederick Hervey, Earl of Bristol, ..	1767
Charles Agar,	1768
George Chinnery,	1780
Richard Woodward,	1781
William Bennett,	1794
CHARLES MORGAN WARBURTON,	1820

At the distance of about one mile from Cloyne, towards the west, is CASTLE-MARY, a seat of the Longfield family. The demesne is extensive, and enriched by fine and venerable plantations. This place was formerly called *Carrig Cotta*, and *Cot's Rock*, from the remains of a cromlech, situated near the house. The covering stone is about twelve feet in length, and is supported, at one end, to the height of six feet above the ground, by two stones of less dimensions. In the close vicinity is a smaller stone, supported in a slanting position by a single stone. Dr. Smith

mathematician of considerable repute. His name is often mentioned with respect in the letters of Swift and Addison, with both of which writers he was intimately acquainted.

* Bishop Crowe expended considerable sums at Cloyne, in rebuilding the episcopal residence, and other improvements. He, likewise, recovered for this see the lands of Donoughmore, containing several thousand acres.

† This celebrated prelate was a native of the county of Kilkenny; and in our description of that district we notice the place at which it is supposed he was born. The talents as a writer, the enthusiastic benevolence, and the solid virtues of Dr. Berkeley have met with due illustration, from several biographical authors. For a memoir of this extraordinary person, peculiarly intelligent and elegant, we refer to Dr. Drake's "*Essays, Illustrative of the Tatler, Spectator,*" &c. vol. iii.

observes that this cromlech was called, in Irish; *Carig Croith*, or the Rock of the Sun; which appellation has been corrupted to *Carig Cot*.

The seaport-town of *Youghal*, or *Youghall*,* is situated on the eastern coast of this county, at the distance of 24 miles from

* In the years 1796, 1797, and 1801, there took place, near the town of *Youghal*, some interesting recurrences of the phenomena which are produced by the reflection and refraction of the images of terrestrial objects from mists and fogs, and which are best known under the Italian appellation of *fata morgana*. We are induced to present an abridged account of a long article upon this subject, in a philosophical journal, especially as phenomena of this kind have been connected with the popular mythology and superstitions of Ireland.

The first of these exhibitions was seen on the 21st of October, 1796, at about four o'clock in the afternoon, the sun shining clearly. There appeared, on a hill in the adjoining county of *Waterford*, a walled town, with well-defined houses, a round tower, and spired church; the *Waterford* hills being seen distinctly in the back-ground. In a short time the spire and round tower became capped with domes, and another tower became a broken turret; all the houses then became ruins, their fragments seeming to be scattered about, and in little more than an hour the whole disappeared, the hill sinking to the level of the real field.

On the 24th of March, 1797, at about eight in the morning, a similar phenomenon was observed on the sea, to the south-west of the town. This, also, presented a hill supporting a walled town; on one side were houses, and a castle in ruins; in the middle were two broken towers, on one of which was a flag flying; and between them and the castle were more houses in ruins; the scene was terminated to the south by a round tower and walls. The hill was of a green and brown colour; the buildings were purple and brown; and the whole had a clear and brilliant appearance, like a transparent painting. How long it continued is not known.

The most beautiful example of these splendid exhibitions of nature, described as occurring here, was seen at about five o'clock on a fine morning, in June, 1801. All the coast opposite the river of *Youghal*, on the *Waterford* side, being covered with a dense vapour, presented on the right, next the sea, the objects of an alpine region; in the back-ground were snow-capped mountains, while woods and a cultivated country appeared in front. The snow was presently seen to roll down the sides of the mountains into the subjacent valleys, and disclosed to view the grey

the city of Cork. The town is placed at the foot of a long and steep hill, and consists of one street, about a mile in length, with several smaller streets branching from the chief line of thoroughfare. The great commercial influence of Cork prevents Youghal from becoming a place of any considerable trade. From several favouring circumstances it is, however, a town of much respectability. The antiquarian visiter will here find some gratification; and many historical recollections add, in no mean a degree, to the interest of the town generally, as well as of particular buildings.

Youghal was under the protection of the Fitzgeralds; at the earliest period concerning which it is noticed in history. Maurice Fitzgerald founded a monastery here, in 1224. Thomas, often called the Great Earl of Desmond, on account of the extent of his possessions, obtained for the town a charter of incorporation, in the second year of King Edward IV. A collegiate church, and a second monastic house, were, also, founded by this powerful family. It will be readily supposed, that a connexion with the fortunes of a noble race so turbulent in character, was unlikely to be productive of permanent prosperity. In 1579, the Earl of Desmond, then in rebellion, laid siege to the town so long sustained by his family; and, on the surrender of the place, he gave it up to indiscriminate plunder, not excepting even the religious foundations. It was, for a short time, garrisoned, in favour of the rebel earl, by his relative, the seneschal of Imokilly. In the

specks it had invested; and, as the solar rays increased in power, the vapour disappeared with its deceitful prospect. That which covered the river and adjacent country to the left, exhibited a scene entirely different. It represented a country laid out in lawns and pleasure-grounds, in which were situated three gentlemen's seats, which were well-defined, and even appeared in detail, with some of their windows open, and knockers on the doors. Before the houses were clumps of fine forest trees; behind them were beautiful shrubberies, which were succeeded by forests of pines, and the view was closed by distant mountains. In about half an hour, two of the houses vanished, the clumps in front also disappearing, and a fine oak sprang up; which, upon the rarefaction of the vapour by the augmenting activity of the sun, was the last to fade away of all the constituents of this aerial picture. Abridged from Beauford: Philos. Mag. vol. xlii. p. 336.

confusion of the plunder all the inhabitants, save one poor friar alone, had fled from the town; and the seneschal was soon under the necessity of relinquishing the place, through a want of provisions. It was then garrisoned by the Earl of Ormonde; and Cappington, the mayor, who had surrendered to Desmond, was hanged at his own door.

In 1592, the seneschal of Imokilly endeavoured to regain this place, and succeeded in scaling the walls, but was ultimately repulsed, with the loss of fifty of his followers.

Richard, first Earl of Cork, chose Youghal for his quarters, in the civil wars which commenced in 1641; or, in the language used to the public, was appointed by government to preserve this town from the enemy; for which service he had an assignment of one thousand foot and sixty horses. In a letter to Lord Goring, he complains of being weak and infirm when he entered on this duty; and he died here, in September, 1643. An army, in the Irish interest, under the command of the Earl of Castlehaven, lay before Youghal for nearly ten weeks, in 1645; but the assailants were not prepared for a regular siege, and they retired on succour arriving to the town from Lord Broghill. It was here that Oliver Cromwell concluded his terrible progress through Ireland. The place yielded to him without any effort at resistance, and he embarked from this port for England.

This was a walled town, and considerable remains of the walls, and the towers by which they were strengthened, are still to be seen, although in a ruinous condition.* There are chiefly found an line of boundary to the gardens of some houses of a superior description, built on the rise of the hill. It has been noticed, as a proof of the mildness of climate on this part of the coast, that the myrtle grows with great luxuriance in these gardens, and, in some instances, attains the height of twenty feet.

* Grants to the corporation, for the repair of the walls, were made in the reigns of Henry VII, Elizabeth, and James I. It would appear, from some observations of Dr. Smith, that repairs were also effected in the early part of the eighteenth century. The wall, on the west side, ranged along the Mill, and extended to the whole ancient length of the town.

Youghal will be viewed with warm feelings of interest, by most visitors, as the town in which Sir Walter Raleigh occasionally resided. It will be recollected that this bright ornament of the age in which he flourished, and eminent contributor to the comforts of his country, was actively engaged in the Irish wars under Elizabeth. From the transactions of those sanguinary wars, few names have escaped unsullied; and it is acknowledged, by his most zealous advocates, that Raleigh was a ready instrument of the vengeful spirit that was then abroad, and which appeared to have rendered men, of all parties, callous to human suffering, in whatever form it stood presented, if within the sphere of military action. Considerable estates in Ireland constituted his share of the spoil;* which, in the exigencies attendant on an outfit for his foreign adventures, he sold, for a sum comparatively small, to the sagacious and thrifty Richard, first Earl of Cork. The house in which Sir Walter is said to have resided, when at Youghal, is still standing, and in good preservation. It adjoins the church-yard, and is at present in the occupation of Sir Christopher Masgrave. It is a mansion of long and low proportions, not remarkable either for beauty or peculiarity of architecture. Several of the apartments are of rather spacious dimensions; and finished with oaken panels, and large chimney-pieces, well carved. In a garden attached to this residence, it is believed that Raleigh planted the first potatoes grown in Ireland. According to a current tradition, the man intrusted with the care of the garden, in the absence of Sir Walter, supposed that the apple, or seed, was the esculent part of the novel production; and, finding the taste unpleasant, bestowed no farther thought on the plantation, until, upon digging the ground for some other crop, the root was found to yield a wholesome and palatable species of

* The estates obtained by Sir W. Raleigh formed part of the forfeited property of the Earl of Desmond, and consisted of three seignories and a half, in the counties of Cork and Waterford. Among these estates were the manors of Ballynatra; Strancallie; Lysfinneen; Mogeyley; Sheane; and Lismore. Also the town of Tallow, and the Abbey of Molana. This large property he sold to the Earl of Cork, for the sum of 1500*l*.

food, of more importance to the future condition of Ireland than all the political schemes, wars, and encroaching settlements, of Queen Elizabeth, her counsellors and armies.*

The name of Sir Walter Raleigh occurs as mayor of Youghal, for the year 1588. He sailed from the harbour of Cork, on his last voyage of discovery, August 6th, 1617, and some curious particulars concerning his departure are printed in Smith's History of Cork, on the authority of certain manuscripts, said to have been then existing in the Castle of Lismore.

The *Parochial Church* of Youghal was formerly the church of a collegiate institution, founded in 1464, by Thomas, Earl of Desmond, for a warden, eight fellows, and the same number of choristers; which establishment was endowed with several benefices, and a considerable landed estate. After passing through many hands, subsequent to the dissolution, the greater part of the property belonging to this college was finally obtained by Sir Richard Boyle, afterwards first Earl of Cork. The wardenship, with the tithes of Youghal parish, and three hundred acres of

* Dr. Campbell (Polit. Survey, vol. i. p. 95) asserts that Sir W. Raleigh first planted the potatoe in Ireland, A. D. 1610. But an examination into the leading occurrences in the life of Raleigh, will show that this assertion must be founded on error. In 1603, he was tried for high-treason; and, on conviction, was confined to the Tower of London for fourteen years. It was in 1586, that he obtained the grant of three seignories and a half, of land, as mentioned in our previous note; and he appears to have resided at Youghal in years near that date, as we find him serving the office of Mayor in 1588. It will, therefore, be proper to ascribe the introduction of the potatoe to about the same period; a time at which he was tranquilly living in Ireland, probably engrossed by schemes for the improvement of the vast extent of land he had recently acquired in this country. It is well known that two kinds of potatoe are noticed in Gerard's Herbal (date 1597) one of which he terms the Virginian potatoe, and describes in terms strictly applicable to the potatoe now in common use. It is said that *Spanish Potatoes* were planted in Ireland, so early as 1565, by the navigator Hawkins, who brought them from Santa Fe. We leave to statistical writers a discussion of the very problematical question, as to whether the use of potatoe, for the sole food of a population, be conducive to the prosperity of a country, or otherwise.

land annexed; is now in the gift of the crown, and has been united to the bishopric of Cloyne since the time of Charles I. Some domestic parts of the collegiate buildings were repaired, and altered as a dwelling-house, for the first Earl of Cork, but were alienated by his family, many years back.

The Church is a spacious building, in the pointed style of architecture. The parts used for divine worship, or as places of family burial, are in a good state of preservation; but the ancient chancel has been, for many years, in a decayed and ruinous condition, and is now separated from the body of the fabric by a wall, which runs across the church, and meets the eastern side of the transepts. There are two side-aisles, which are divided from the nave by rows of pointed arches, resting on massive piers.

The large eastern window of the ruinous chancel presents the finest architectural feature of the church buildings. The lower part of this window is now built up, but the original graceful proportions are apparent. The lights were divided by stone mullions, and the head is filled with tracery, of pleasing but not elaborate involutions. Placed centrally in the upper compartment, is the figure of a St. Catherine's wheel.

The southern transept was formerly a chantry, dedicated to the Blessed Saviour. In the year 1606, it was purchased, of the mayor and corporation, by the Earl of Cork, and was repaired by that nobleman, as a mortuary chapel, or tomb-house, for himself and family. Here, in his life-time, he erected a gorgeous monument, loaded with effigies and escutcheons, and illustrated by inscriptions, so copious and explicit, that the monument may be truly said to present heraldic and genealogical memoirs of the founder and his family. The taste in which it is executed cannot be commended; but a redundancy of decoration, rendered prominent by gold leaf and gaudy painting, was an error of the times, from which few costly monuments of Lord Cork's æra are entirely exempt. We present, in a note, a brief account of this monument, and are indebted for most of the particulars there afforded, to the full description published by Dr. Smith. The chapel in which it

is placed is kept closely locked, and is not opened, for the inspection of the caskets, unless by especial permission.*

* The architectural parts of the monument are chiefly composed of marble, and the figures are of alabaster. The principal figure represented is the effigy of Sir Richard Boyle, Knt., Baron Boyle, of Youghal, Viscount Dungarvan, and Earl of Cork. He is figured in armour, lying on his left side, his head being supported by his left hand. Below are represented nine of his children, with the dates of their births on the pedestals. Among numerous inscriptions, on different parts of the monument, we copy the following, which relate immediately to the first Earl of Cork and his children:

"Richard, Earl of Cork, married two wives, the first Joan, one of the two daughters and co-heiresses of William Apsley, Esq. who died in travail of her first child, which did not survive her. The second wife was Katherine, the only daughter of Sir Geoffry Fenton, Knt. secretary of state in Ireland, by whom he had issue, seven sons and eight daughters."

On the right side, issuing from the above inscription, in the manner of a genealogical table, are the following memorials:

"Sir Richard Boyle, Knt. son and heir apparent of Richard, Earl of Cork, married Elizabeth, eldest of the two daughters and co-heiresses of Henry, Lord Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, and had issue.

"Sir Lewis Boyle, Knt. Lord Boyle, Baron of Bandon-Bridge, and Lord Viscount Boyle of Kinalmeaky, second son of Richard, Earl of Cork, married the lady Elizabeth, daughter of Sir W. Fielding, Knt. Lord Baron of Newenham Padox, Viscount Fielding, and Earl of Denbigh. *Slain in the battle of Lisacrol, Sept. 3rd, 1642.*

"Sir Roger Boyle, Knt. Lord Boyle, Baron of Broghill, third son of Richard, Earl of Cork, married the lady Margaret, daughter of Theophilus, Lord Howard of Walden, Earl of Suffolk.

"Francis Boyle, Esq. fourth son of Richard, Earl of Cork, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Killigrew, Knt. late vice-chamberlain to Mary, Queen of England.

"Robert Boyle, Esq. fifth son of Richard, Earl of Cork.

"Roger Boyle, eldest son of Richard, Earl of Cork, being a scholar at Reptford, in Kent, died there, the 10th of October, 1615, and lies there interred.

"Geoffry Boyle, third son of Richard, Earl of Cork, died young, on the 20th of January, 1616, and lieth here interred."†

To each of the above inscriptions are escutcheons (those of the married sons impaled with the arms of their ladies) with proper differences for

† Geoffry Boyle was accidentally drowned in the College-well, in this town.

When Lord Cork purchased the south transept as a family burial-place, it was covenanted that he should not molest any ancient interments, or monuments, of which there are several in this chapel. One inscription, unconnected with the Boyles, is now partly hidden by a wall, but the lines still legible are worthy of transcription, if only as a remarkable instance of infelicity in arrangement. The epitaph appears to be designed for Sir Edward Villers, lord president of Munster, who died in 1626.

Munster may curse the time that Villers came,
To make us worse,—by leaving such a name
Of noble parts, as none can imitate,
But those whose hearts are married to the state.
But, if they press to imitate his fame,
Munster may bless the time that Villers came.

In the flooring of the north transept and the nave, are many monumental stones, of considerable antiquity. Several of these

the several sons. On the left hand are the inscriptions copied beneath, with the several coats of arms of the earl's daughters, impaled with the bearings of their husbands:

“David, Lord Barry, Lord Viscount Buttevant, first Earl of Barrymore, married the lady Alice Boyle, first daughter of Richard, Earl of Cork.

“Robert, Lord Digby, Baron of Geashill, married the lady Sarah Boyle, second daughter of Richard, Earl of Cork, being then the widow of Sir Thomas Moore, Knt. son and heir to Garret, Lord Moore, Lord Viscount of Drogheda.

“Colonel George Goring, son and heir to Sir George Goring, Knt. Lord Baron Goring, of Hurst-Pierpoint, married the lady Lettice Boyle, third daughter of Richard, Earl of Cork.

“George Fitzgerald, Earl of Kildare, married the lady Jean Boyle, fourth daughter of Richard, Earl of Cork.

“Arthur Jones, Esq. son and heir of Sir Roger Jones, Knt. Lord Viscount Ranelagh, married the lady Katherine Boyle, fifth daughter of Richard, Earl of Cork.

“Sir Arthur Loftus, Knt. son and heir of Sir Adam Loftus, Knt. vice-treasurer, and treasurer at wars, in Ireland, married the lady Dorothy Boyle, sixth daughter of Richard, Earl of Cork.

“Charles Rich, Esq. second son of Robert Lord Rich, of Leeze, Earl of

are enriched with ornamented crosses; and there are two recumbent figures, now separated from the tombs to which they formerly belonged. There are, also, some remains of ancient monuments among the ruins of the chapel.

Two religious houses were founded in this town; one being placed near its northern, and the other near its southern extremity.

Towards the north stood the *Dominican Friary*, called the *Friary of St. Mary of Thanks*; which was founded, about the year 1268, by Thomas Fitzgerald, nicknamed *Nappagh*, *Siniacus*, or *the Ape*.* General chapters of the order were held here, in the years 1291, and 1304. The founder was buried in the church of this friary, either in 1296, or 1298. Some unimportant remains of the buildings are still in existence.

On the south stood a *Monastery for Franciscans*, founded in 1224, by Maurice Fitzgerald, twice lord justice of Ireland. The cause of the foundation is traditionally attributed to the following romantic circumstance.—Maurice was about to erect a castle on this site, and the workmen, who were employed in digging the foundation, begged, on the eve of some festival, a piece of money, to be spent in drinking to the welfare of the new undertaking. He directed his eldest son to grant their request, but the son, instead of so doing, abused the workmen. Maurice, says this idle

Warwick, married the lady Mary Boyle, seventh daughter of Richard, Earl of Cork."

In the upper part of the monument is the effigy of the Earl of Cork's mother, Joan Naylor, lying on her left side, her arm leaning on a bible. At the head and feet of the principal statue are effigies of the earl's two wives, both represented in the attitude of prayer.

* Thomas Fitzgerald is said to have derived this sobriquet from the following circumstance. When he was about nine months old, an ape, which was kept in his father's family, took him from the cradle, and ascended with him to the top of the castle, or, according to some traditions, of the friary, of Tralee; and, after playing with him there for some time, safely descended, and restored him to the cradle. The Fitzgeralds of the house of Leinster, as principal and immediate dependants of this Thomas the ape, bear monkeys for their supporters and crest, in grateful remembrance of his preservation.

tradition, was so greatly concerned, or disheartened, by such an impediment to the good wishes of the work-people, that he altered his design, and founded a monastery where he had intended to erect a castle! It is more certain that the pious founder experienced disappointments in the service of King Henry III.; and assumed the habit of St. Francis. He died in this monastery, on the 30th of May, 1257, and was here buried.

This was the earliest foundation in Ireland for the order of St. Francis, and several provincial chapters of that order were held at Youghal. The buildings were completed by Thomas, the second son of the founder, who was also buried within these walls; as were several other noblemen of the house of Desmond. No traces of the structure are now remaining.

An almshouse and a free-school were founded here by Richard, Earl of Cork. An almshouse, for six poor widows, was also founded by Mr. Maurice Rosayne. The trade of Youghal is nearly confined to the coasting business. Good bricks, and earthenware of a coarse quality, have long been made here, and sent, in considerable quantities, to Cork.

Youghal is noticed by Smith, writing near the middle of the last century, as an eligible place for the retirement of persons having confined incomes; and it still continues to hold forth the inducement of a comparative cheapness in provisions. We may add, that, whilst it is thus favourable to economy, it likewise forms a very agreeable place of residence. Many of the houses are good, and are respectably occupied. In the summer and autumnal months, numerous visitants, for the purpose of sea-bathing, impart a pleasing air of fashion and animation to the town.—The harbour is sufficiently spacious, but a bar at its entrance denies admission to vessels of large burthen. The river Blackwater here enters the ocean. Beyond the harbour is an extensive bay, with a fine beach of smooth sand, forming a very desirable place of exercise and amusement.

Youghal is governed by a mayor, burgesses, and commonalty, who act under a charter granted by James I. It sends one member to the imperial parliament, and gives the title of baron, in

the Irish peerage, to the family of Boyle, Earl of Cork and Orrery.

We cannot conclude our notice of this town, without some cursory remarks on the character, and singular prosperity, of Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork, whose costly tomb we have mentioned in our description of the collegiate church. This nobleman was the second son of Mr. Roger Boyle, who was descended of a Herefordshire family, but who lived, in circumstances of no great affluence, near Feversham, in Kent. The son Richard became a student in the Middle Temple; but "finding his means unable to support him at the Inns of Court," he entered the service of Sir Richard Manwood, lord chief baron of the exchequer, as one of his clerks. Perceiving, to use his own words, "that this employment would not raise a fortune," he repaired to Ireland, then the scene of enterprize with many Englishmen, who had more courage and talent, than property, or prospect of success, in their native country. He arrived at Dublin on the 23rd of June, 1588; at which time his whole wealth consisted of £27. 3s. in money; two tokens given him by his mother, namely, a diamond ring and a bracelet of gold; his wearing apparel; and his rapier and dagger. The æra was propitious to adventure, but he quickly found that more, for his personal advantage, was to be done by politic schemes, and cool speculation, than by the rapier and dagger, in a country torn by faction, and in which defeat was invariably followed by *forfeiture*.

The manner in which an adventurer, so destitute of connexions in his own country, and possessing no more than £27 : 3s. and his rapier and dagger, when he landed in Ireland; could, without a profession, amass a fortune so large as that of the Earl of Cork, is one of the wonders of the times in which he flourished. He has left, written by himself, what he terms his *true remembrances*, or some account of his life, up to the year 1632. From this account we find that he acquired with his first wife, who died shortly after her marriage, an estate of £500 *per annum*; but this slender, though curious, piece of auto-biography, throws

little light on the means by which he obtained any other parts of his great fortune. By certain law-officers, and officers of state, in Ireland, he was accused to Queen Elizabeth of having "used the purse of some foreign prince to supply him with money." But this accusation was not made good; and we are, therefore, in justice, to suppose that the suspicion arose merely from the very natural surprise, generally expressed, that a man, apparently without resources, should be enabled to make purchases so extensive.*

After his triumphant justification of himself against this serious charge, employments of state, and titles of honour, fell thickly upon him. In 1616, he was created Lord Boyle, baron of Youghall; and in 1620, Viscount Dungarvan, and Earl of Cork. His great estates in this county will be noticed in several future pages. We have already adverted to the numerous manors purchased by him, for the sum of £1500, of the ill-fated Sir Walter Raleigh. His activity in the defence of his large territories, like most efforts at individual benefit, assuredly proved of service to the public cause. The improvements he effected, at his different towns, would have been equally valuable in themselves, and useful as examples, if they had not been made in a spirit of intolerance, as regarded religious opinions, that was discreditable to him as a man, and was chiefly calculated to foment fresh wars and new forfeitures. For a part of the success with which he maintained his great power, and acquired, indeed, a continuous augmentation of political and personal consequence, he was indebted to a circumstance that would have oppressed him, if confined to the humble sphere of life in which he commenced his career;—that of having a numerous family. His sons were chiefly of a martial character, well suited to the temper of the times; and we have seen, from his monumental inscriptions, that his daughters strengthened the roots of his prosperity, by mar-

* In a letter to the Earl of Warwick, Lord Cork states, that, prior to the breaking out of the rebellion in 1641, his revenue "besides his houses, demesnes, parks, and other royalties," yielded him £50 a day rent.

rying into noble and powerful houses. His fifth son, Robert Boyle, is the favourite of posterity, as an experimental philosopher of the highest class; and many descendants of this "great earl" have reflected lustre on the peerage.

The Earl of Cork had formerly an extensive park, in the parish of Ardagh, at the distance of about three miles from Youghal; but the land was disparked nearly a century ago. The principal proprietors in this neighbourhood, at the present time, are the Duke of Devonshire, who enjoys a great part of the Burlington estate; the Earl of Shannon; and Lord Ponsonby.

At KILLNIGH,* a small village, distant four miles from Youghal, towards the north-west, an abbey was founded by St. Abban, who died A. D. 650. Little is known concerning the history of this institution, but we are told that the first abbess, appointed by the founder, was "the holy virgin," St. Conchenna. In the neighbourhood of this village is *Mount-Uniacke*, the seat of the elder branch of the Uniacke family. Several other members of this respectable family have, likewise, seats in this part of the county.

CASTLEMARTYR is a neat and very agreeable town, or rather village, situated on the road between Cork and Youghal, at the distance of rather more than eight miles from the latter. The name of this place was formerly *Ballymartyr*, and it is said to have been also called *Lepers'-town*, from an hospital in its vicinity for persons afflicted with leprosy, a disease once dreadfully prevalent in most parts of Munster. The Fitzgeralds, seneschals of Imokilly,† were seated for many ages at this town. It afterwards

* It may be scarcely worthy of notice, but still may be mentioned, that the precocious scholar, and pleasing poet, Dermody, was placed for two years in this village, under the care and tuition of the Rev. Hugh Boyd. The residence of genius imparts so powerful a charm to a rural neighbourhood, that a recollection of this circumstance may chance to call up some grateful associations, in the mind of the traveller or visitor.

† James, Earl of Desmond, was constituted, for life, in the year 1420, seneschal of the baronies of Imokilly and Inchiquin, and the town of

became the property and residence of a junior branch of the ennobled family of Boyle, in which it is still vested. Many parts of the town and estate afford memorials of the distinguished Roger, Lord Broghill, first Earl of Orrery. In the year 1663, the town was incorporated, through the interest of that nobleman, who erected it into a borough, with the nomination of the chief magistrate, recorder, town-clerk, clerk of the market, and other officers, to him and his heirs for ever, together with the privilege of sending two members to the Irish parliament. He, also, founded almshouses for six poor men and the same number of women. There is a charter-school, built in 1748, on ground given for that purpose by the Right Hon. Henry Boyle, afterwards Earl of Shannon. This place has not returned members to parliament since the Union. It gives the title of baron, in the peerage of Ireland, to the family of Boyle, Earl of Shannon.

Although provision was made by the Earl of Orrery for the continuous exercise of corporate franchises, Castlemartyr has never risen superior to the character of a village; but, in the attractions proceeding from a neat preservation of buildings, and general respectability of character, it is not exceeded by any village, or rural town, in the province of Munster.

In the immediate vicinity of the village, but screened from it by thick plantations, is the fine demesne of the Earl of Shannon. The buildings on this noble territory consist of some vestiges of the ancient castle, and a contiguous large but irregular mansion, built at different times, and evincing little beauty on the exterior. The remains of the castle are now completely enveloped in ivy, and other foliage. This structure was founded by the de Carews, and afterwards constituted, as we have observed above, the fortified dwelling of the Fitzgeralds, seneschals of Imokilly. The modern mansion was partly erected by the first Lord Orrery, but was greatly enlarged in the middle years of the

Youghal, by the Earl of Ormond, lord lieutenant of Ireland. A branch of the Fitzgeralds, seated at Castlemartyr, successively assumed the title of seneschal, on the authority of this grant to the Earl of Desmond. Smith, vol. I. p. 125, &c.

eighteenth century, by the right hon. Henry Boyle, speaker of the Irish house of commons, created, in 1756, Earl of Shannon, Viscount Boyle, of Bandon, and *Baron Castlemartyr*.

The history of this castle and mansion implicates many circumstances, far from being devoid of interest. We pass over the turbulent events connected with the times of the Fitzgeralds; but the attention is unavoidably arrested, when we view this as the occasional residence, and last retirement of the first Earl of Orrery. The name of this nobleman appears so frequently in our work, that we need scarcely remind the reader he was third son of Richard Boyle, the first Earl of Cork. As Lord Broghill, and acting under the advice and excitement of his crafty and grasping father, we see him displaying martial qualities of a brilliant character, sullied by a severity, capable of no other palliation than that of being the common vice of the age in which he bore command. We know not whether the great prevalence of dissimulation, among the public men of that factious period, may be named as a sufficient apology for the adoption of many crooked measures in the prosecution of his undertakings. A spirit of religious proscription had been exercised by the father, probably from motives of worldly policy: it was as a profitable mantle, which the son caught, and he threw by it.

Variety is the excellence of Lord Orrery's biography, as regards the consideration of it in a literary point of view. Ameliorating in character with the times, we behold him, in the declining years of life, engaged in poetical and dramatic composition, to assuage, here by his blazing hearth at *Castlemartyr*, the pains of gout and other gathering diseases. His metrical tragedies of "the Black Prince," and "Henry V.," were much praised at the time of their appearance, but have long since lost their celebrity. The unfinished romance of "Parthenissa" was, at least, an inoffensive employment for the soldier divested by age of his once appalling ferocity. His time, in the last years of his life, was chiefly devoted to literary composition, at this place or at Charleville; and he died here, on the 16th of October, 1679, in the 59th year of his age.

Lord Orrery was succeeded at Castlemartyr by his second son, the hon. Henry Boyle, whose son, captain Henry Boyle, was besieged at this place by a force under general Mac Carty, in February, 1688. The enemy were provided with two field-pieces ; and captain Boyle, although he had collected 140 gentlemen and servants for his defence, was induced to surrender the castle, on the general's promise that neither person nor estate should suffer injury. In violation of this contract, the house was plundered, and the castle dismantled. Henry, the son of captain Boyle, was a statesman of much activity and distinction, and, as we have already observed, was created Earl of Shannon in 1756. To this nobleman the house and grounds are indebted for the principal features, in their present modes of disposal. The mansion, although irregular and destitute of external ornament, possesses several spacious and fine apartments. The drawing-room is, in dimensions, a double cube of 25 feet, being 50 long, 25 broad, and 25 high. The dining-room is 32 feet in length, by 22 in width.

The attached grounds are very extensive.* They present no bold or grand scenery, but abound in combinations of beauty more generally attractive. The surface is agreeably diversified by gentle undulations, and the whole demesne is particularly rich in wood, often of a noble growth. A canal, of great extent, formed by the first Earl of Shannon, encompasses the principal parts of the grounds, and spreads, in some places, to a width emulating the character of a lake, whilst in others it glides through masses of wood, in graceful meanders. On the banks of the canal, in the vicinity of the mansion, is a considerable length of gravelled walk, edged with plantations ; and many other walks and rides,

* Mr. Townsend states " the whole of the grounds in his lordship's hands to amount to 1200 acres, a demesne of immense value, when it is considered that a very large proportion of it is rich arable, meadow, or pasture, and that all which is not, bears a crop of almost incalculable worth in this country at present, timber. Of the demesne, properly so called, and consisting of 800 acres, 60 to 80 are generally under tillage, 80 to 100 under meadow, 200 in wood, water, and pleasure grounds, and the remainder in pasture." *Agricultural Survey*, vol. ii. p. 104.

of the same description, lead through different parts of the demesne. The whole of the pleasure-ground is highly dressed, and preserved with extreme care. On the north side of the town is the Deer-park, consisting of about 400 acres, well stocked with red and fallow deer. Some points of scenery in this fine park are more bold and romantic than any presented in the home-grounds, and it is enriched by much wood, of luxuriant beauty. The gardens are on an extensive scale; and in these, and the spacious conservatories, are many rare and estimable plants and flowers.

MIDLETON is situated *midway* between Cork and Youghal. This town consists of one long street, which extends from north to south, and terminates, in both directions, with a bridge. The domestic buildings are in general good, and the town wears an inviting air of neatness and respectability. The antient name of this place was *Castre-ni-chora*; the Castle of the Ford. An abbey was founded here, under the name of the *Abbey of St. Mary of Chora*, in the year 1180, either by the Fitzgeralds or Barrys. Independent of this foundation, the town appears to have attracted little notice, until Sir St. John Brodrick, who had entered Ireland in the sanguinary year 1641, fixed his seat here. It is recorded by Lodge, that, in 1670, "the castles, towns, and lands of Castle-redmond, Corrabby, and divers others in the baronies of Barrymore, Fermoy, and Orrery, were erected into the manor of Middleton," and granted to Sir St. J. Brodrick, "with power to set apart 800 acres for demesne, and to impark 800 more." Castle-redmond and Corrabby were, at the same time, made a free borough and corporation, under the name of Middleton, the privileges of which were to extend over 100 acres, lying every way round the middle of the town. The church, and much the greater part of the town, were rebuilt, about the time of this grant, under the auspices of the Brodrick family.

The Church is a neat and commodious building. In the attached burial-yard is a place of sepulture belonging to a branch of the Brodrick family.

Here is a free-school, once of some eminence, founded and endowed, in 1709, by Lady Elizabeth Villiers, who was maid of honour to Queen Mary, when Princess of Orange, and was afterwards married to Lord George Hamilton, created Earl of Orkney. The buildings were erected by this lady, at a considerable expense. The master has a salary of *£100 per annum*; and, according to the terms of foundation, the sum of fifty pounds is to be annually distributed, in exhibitions to scholars of this house, entered at Trinity College, Dublin. At this school John Philpot Curran passed some time; and here, to use his own language, "his young capacity received the first stimulus of effective advancement, to which he was indebted for all his better fortune in life."

The Market-house is a useful and substantial fabric, and the markets are well supplied with provisions. An Infirmary and Dispensary, on a liberal scale, and judiciously conducted, are recent institutions highly creditable to the humanity and good sense of the inhabitants. The town is governed, under its charter of incorporation above noticed, by a sovereign and two bailiffs.

Midleton gives the title of Viscount, in the Irish peerage, to George Brodrick, descended from Sir St. John Brodrick, whose successful entry into Ireland during the troubles of 1641, has been already mentioned. His lordship's ancestor was created Baron Brodrick, of *Midleton*, in 1715, and Viscount Midleton in 1717.

The town of Midleton is the property of the nobleman to whom it affords a title. Lord Midleton has an old family residence, about one mile distant from the town, which is now occupied by his agent. Amongst several other handsome seats in this neighbourhood, must be mentioned *MIDLETON LODGE*, the residence of Marcus Lynch, Esq.; the demesne belonging to which is well-planted, and greatly ornamental to the borders of the town. *BALLYEDMOND*, the elegant modern villa of Robert Courtenay, Esq. is situated on high ground, commanding extensive and beautiful views, at the distance of one mile from Midleton, towards the north. The stream called the Midleton river winds through a romantic glen near this well-placed seat; and the demesne is finely ornamented with wood and thriving plantations.

On the banks of the river Bride, which runs to the north of the two last-noticed towns, are the ruins of several castles, that belonged to the Desmond family. At **MOGEALY**, on that small river, the Earls of Desmond had a principal seat. Here Thomas, usually called the "Great Earl of Desmond," chiefly resided.*

The small village termed **WATERGRASS HILL**, distant eight miles from Cork, on the road to Fermoy, is thought to stand upon the highest cultivated ground in Ireland. The ascent from Cork is, however, so gradual, that the traveller is by no means aware of the great altitude he has attained, until he deliberately views the nearest mountains, and compares their degrees of elevation with that of the eminence on which he is placed. The prospects from this lofty hill are equally comprehensive and grand.†

* An anecdote, related by Smith, concerning this Earl and his castle of Mogealy, forcibly illustrates the rude, but hospitable, character of the times in which the building was at its zenith of prosperity. The steward of the "great Earl," without consulting his lord, invited numerous chiefs of Munster, with their followers, to spend a month at this castle. Crowds, accordingly, flocked in, to the surprise of the Earl, and, also, to his chagrin, as he was not provided with viands for the entertainment of so large a party for many days. The steward, meantime, absented himself; and the Earl, finding that his provisions were nearly exhausted, resolved to save his credit at the expense of his castle. He led his company to a hunting match, at some distance from home, and ordered a trusty servant to set fire to the castle, and afterwards to say that it was burnt by accident! Throughout the morning of the hunt he cast many a look towards Mogealy, under the earnest hope of seeing flames burst from his paternal towers. But no such conflagration was displayed; and it eventually appeared that the steward had returned, just in time to prevent the destruction of the building, and had brought with him a *large prey* of corn and cattle, sufficient to subsist the "great Earl" and his friends, for a longer time than it was intended their revelry should last.

† Mr. Townsend remarks that "a singular visual deception attends this prospect. To the traveller who has so lately quitted the level of the sea at Cork, and imperceptibly gained an unsuspected elevation, the flats about Fermoy appear vastly lower than those he has just left behind. He finds it difficult to conceive even an equality of horizontal level, and feels prepared to pronounce a decided opinion upon the much greater

RATHCORMUCK, on the same road, is a neat and pleasing village. The street is of a desirable width, and many of the houses are agreeably ornamented in a rural taste. This place is seated on the river Bride, which is here crossed by a stone bridge, commenced in the year 1734. This town was for many ages the property and seat of a branch of the Barry family. By Redmond Barry, Esq. who died in 1750, the estate, comprising manorial rights over 10,000 acres, was sold to the family of Tonson. Before the union this was a borough, sending two members to the Irish parliament. William Tonson, Esq. patron of this borough, and one of its representatives in parliament, was created Baron Riversdale, of *Rathcormuck*, in 1783.

The Church is a respectable building, in the pointed style, gratefully shaded by trees, and enlarged by the late Lord Riversdale, who added to it a chapel and gallery, for the use of his lordship's family. In this Church are buried the Barrys of Ballyclough (the house of Mac Roberts) and those of the extinct line of Lisnegar. In the churchyard is a monument to *Redmond Barry*, of Rathcormuck, Esq. who sold this estate to the Tonsons. He died Sept. 5th, 1750, aged 63. Here, also, is interred his sister, Mrs. Mary Barry, who survived him a few days only, and died on Sept. 25th, 1750, aged 64. There are, likewise, inscriptions to *Richard Barry*, of Rathcormuck, died 1770, aged 55; and *James Barry*, of Corroghpeneyne, chief of the sept of Mac Roberts, died 22nd January, 1744, aged 65.

The *Roman Catholic Chapel* is a spacious building of stone, having a square tower at one end. This chapel was erected in 1818.

At a short distance from the town is LISNEGAR, the handsome

depression of the northern vale. A little reflection, however, convinces him that the contrary is the true fact, and that he has been deceived by the graduality of ascent on one side, and the suddenness of the fall on the other. Fermoy stands high above the level of Cork, and from Mitchelstown, situate nearly in the same plane with the former, there is a regular descent to the city of Waterford, on the east side of the island." Agri. Survey of Cork, vol. ii. pp. 45-6.

seat of the ennobled family of Tonson. It may be noticed, to the credit of this part of the county, that the hon. and rev. Charles Ludlow Tonson, of Lisnegar, has the reputation of being one of the best Irish antiquaries and topographers of the present time.

CASTLE LYONS, situated on the north side of the river Bride, at the distance of two miles and one quarter from Rathcormuck, is a small market town, formerly of some celebrity.* This town, and a large contiguous tract of country, were possessed, at an early period, by the sept of O'Cullane, or Collins, and were granted, under the name of *O'Lethan* (pronounced O'Lehan) by Robert Fitzstephens to his nephew, Philip de Barry. In this place the de Barrys had a castle, and here John de Barry founded a monastery, in the year 1307. This religious house appears to have been for Dominican friars, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Considerable parts of the buildings are still remaining. After the dissolution of monasteries, the possessions of the Dominicans at this place were granted to Richard, first Earl of Cork, who bequeathed them to Alice, his eldest daughter, married to David, first Earl of Barrymore. With an affected contempt for the value of this bequest, perhaps most likely to occur in a man with whom great wealth was not hereditary, the Earl of Cork specifies in his will "that he bequeaths the rents and profits of this house to his daughter Barrymore, *to buy her gloves and pins.*"

* Smith, Seward, and some other writers, derive the name of this place from the "O'Lehans, an antient Irish sept that possessed it, and who gave their name to a great part of the country." But such a derivation cannot be deemed satisfactory, as the antient possessors were, more properly, the sept of O'Cullane, or Collins. *Olethan* (pronounced O'Lehan) is the name used in the grant from Fitzstephens of this barony to the de Barrys; but the word *Leathan* (having various significations in the Irish, all relating to qualities, as *broad, strong, &c.*) was probably applied to the individual chief of the sept of O'Cullane, or to the character of the territory, rather than meant to signify the appellation of a sept generally. Montmorency MSS.

It is believed that a monastery for Carmelites, or *White Friars*, was, likewise, founded here by the family of de Barry.

On the confines of the town the Earls of Barrymore had a "strong and stately house," built on the foundation of what Smith terms "the O'Lehan Castle," but which may be, more properly, considered as a castle erected by the de Barrys, and probably soon after their obtaining a grant of this territory from Fitzstephens.* This house was burnt to the ground, through the negligence of workmen employed in repairing the roof, about the year 1771, and has not been rebuilt. It is described by contemporary writers, as a large square building, with a court in the centre. On one side of the square was a spacious hall, and on the north side a gallery, 90 feet long, which, however, had not been completed. It contained some family pictures, including originals of the first Earl of Cork and his second lady.

Amongst the monumental inscriptions in the cemetery of this place, is that of the *Rev. Thadeus O'Brien*, many years parish priest of Castle-Lyons and Rathcormuck, who died on the 20th of Sept. 1747, aged 76. We are induced to notice this funeral-memorial, as Dr. O'Brien was a writer of some distinction, on polemic subjects, and is mentioned as such (under the name of *Timothy O'Brien*) in Ware's *Writers*. In that work are many particulars concerning Dr. O'Brien, who had formerly

* Dr. Smith asserts, that, "in throwing down some of the old walls of Castle-Lehan, a chimney piece was discovered, with this inscription: LEHAN O'CULLANE HOC FECIT. MCIIII;" which he adduces as an instance of stone buildings being of much earlier use in Ireland, than is generally supposed. But the informants of that writer were, certainly, either under mistake or guilty of imposture. The letter *A* is unknown in the Irish alphabet; and we have the authority of all contemporary historians, native Irish and Anglo-Norman, for believing that, at the period of the Strongbonian invasion, not even the ruling tribes of Mac Carthy, O'Sullivan More, &c. dwelt in towers, or fortresses of stone. It is, surely, then, not credible that the petty and dependent sept of O'Cullane should inhabit such buildings? In all probability this castle was erected by Philip de Barry, about the year 1204, nearly at which time he also built the castle of Barry's-court. Montmorency MSS.

“governed laudably, for nine years, the Irish college of Tholouse.”

The town of FERMoy, situated on the river Blackwater, at the distance of 113 miles from Dublin and 14 from Cork, affords the most striking instance, to be seen in Ireland, of the local improvement, and public benefit, to be derived from the enterprising spirit of an individual, when guided in its operations by correctness of judgment, and rendered valuable by perseverance. Thirty years ago Fermoy was a small village, composed solely of wretched cabins; nor is it on record that buildings of a superior character were ever erected here, in antient times, with the exception of those appertaining to a monastic foundation. Whilst thus humble, it gave the title of viscount, in the Irish peerage, to the Anglo-Norman family of Roach, or Roche, now extinct, or so entirely fallen to decay that the chief of the house is unknown. An abbey for Cistercian monks, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, was founded at this place, in the thirteenth century. This is called, by Alemande, *L'Abbaye de Chateau Dieu*. The families of Roche, Condon, and Fitzmaurice appear to have been the principal benefactors. The abbey-church was used, after the suppression, as a place of public worship in the establishment, but no vestige of the monastic building is at this time remaining.*

Fermoy, now one of the best inland towns of Ireland, owes its present improved appearance to the late Mr. John Anderson, a native of Scotland, who formerly resided, as a merchant, at Cork. Previous to his undertakings at Fermoy, Mr. Anderson had distinguished himself for enterprize and public spirit. To him is Munster indebted for the improvement of its roads, and for the establishment of mail and day coaches, on various lines between this province and Dublin. In the year 1789, and in conjunction

* Some part of the monastery walls was standing within the last thirty years, on the site of Abbey-street. The materials of the abbey and its church, together with the tomb-stones of the cemetery, were used by the masons, for the principal inn, and some other domestic buildings of the new town.

with Messrs. O'Donoghue and Fortescue, merchants of Cork, he contracted with government for the introduction of mail-coaches, on the English plan; and the first coaches started from Cork and Dublin on the 5th of April, in the same year. The activity, indeed, with which Mr. Anderson carried his plans into execution, forms a conspicuous and memorable feature of his character.

The estate of Fermoy was purchased, by this gentleman, from one of the co-heiresses of the Forward family. Its subsequent improvement demands circumstantial notice, in a work on Irish topography; and we profit by sources of original information, on which we can place implicit reliance.—When Lord Carhampton visited the south of Ireland, in 1797, for the purpose of selecting proper situations for encampments at that important juncture, he first chose a piece of ground on the Funcheon river, near Kilworth; but so extravagant a price was demanded for it by the proprietor, that the treaty was abruptly broken off. Mr. Anderson then proposed a plot of ground on his newly-purchased estate of Fermoy; and, on being questioned as to the price, promptly replied that it was at the service of government, without purchase. On examination the ground was highly approved, and the troops were encamped upon it.*

On the approach of winter, Mr. Anderson contracted to provide temporary barracks, for a certain number of military; for which purpose he hastily built a range of houses, forming the south side of King-street. The town now began to increase, on the southern side of the river; and, in 1801, a serious augmentation commenced on the north side, in consequence of the foundation of permanent barracks. The east barrack was begun in that year. The west barrack was not commenced until some years after; and the royal hospital, which building lies to the north of the barracks, and is equidistant from both, was not completed until about the year 1815.

Thus, the early prosperity of the new town of Fermoy was

* The spot of encampment was a hill, of small elevation, between the new and old Castle-Lyons roads. It is now finely-clothed with well-grown trees, chiefly larch and Scotch fir.

dependent on military arrangements, and, therefore, likely to fade, on the occurrence of such a state of public tranquillity as would prove the harbinger of plenty to towns under different circumstances. Mr. Anderson's superiority of talent was chiefly shewn in the able measures he adopted to provide against this contingency, by endeavours to introduce manufactures and commerce, and by such municipal regulations as were calculated to render the place a secure, and eligible, residence for a trading population. Human effort is confined to wisdom in project and perseverance in execution. If the schemes thus brilliantly conceived, and judiciously reduced to practice, have not been decisively crowned with success, it must, in justice, be said, that the disappointment was not to be anticipated, or evaded, by any ordinary powers of foresight.

Fermoy is situated on the north and south sides of the Blackwater, which is here crossed by a stone bridge of thirteen arches.* This bridge was widened, in the general improvements of the place, and is the only building of the old town that has been suffered, even in part, to remain. The barracks, which are very extensive, and contain accommodations for horse and foot, are seated on rising ground, upon the north side of the river, and are so well designed, that they present a noble object. The whole town, on its interior, wears the aspect of a fortified place; and from situation, regular distribution of streets, and other points of similitude, bears (as we are informed by the Chev. de Montmorency) a considerable resemblance to the town of Mannheim, in Germany.

We have intimated above that Mr. Anderson entirely levelled with the ground all the domestic buildings of the former town. He profited, satisfactorily, by the peculiar opportunities thus afforded. The streets of the new town are spacious and well

* The present bridge of Fermoy was built in the year 1689, at the expense of £7,500. It appears, from the will of Richard, first Earl of Cork, that a wooden bridge had previously been erected here, towards which that nobleman contributed "800 tons of choice timber." The wooden bridge was carried away by an extraordinary flood.

arranged. The houses are, in general, uniform in height and prevailing character, and are occupied by traders of nearly every description. Among the chief trading establishments may be mentioned a porter brewery, on an extensive scale; linen and woollen manufactories; together with large flour and paper mills. The mail-coaches, for several lines of road, are built here; and there is, also, a manufactory of agricultural implements.

Fermoy affords a stage to all carriages travelling this road, and the principal inn is unrivalled on the line between Cork and Dublin. The adjacency of the military, and the various classes of travellers on this great line of thoroughfare, have caused the erection of numerous inns (we believe not less than forty) of a minor description.

The public buildings, although necessarily few, are uniformly respectable.

The *Parochial Church* is a handsome and commodious structure, erected, at a considerable expense, under the auspices of Mr. Anderson, aided by the liberality of several contributors, including Mr. Hyde, of the neighbouring seat termed Castle Hyde. The architect was Mr. Hargrave. The design is imitative of the pointed style of architecture, and a tower rises at the west end, surmounted by a spire, of pleasing proportions. Fermoy, newly erected into a parish, is ecclesiastically united to the contiguous parishes of Downmahon, and Litter, or Castle Hyde.

The *Roman Catholic Chapel* is spacious, and is tastefully ornamented. The ground on which it is built was given by Mr. Anderson, subject to a nominal rent. He also gave £500 towards the erection of the chapel, on condition that the further sum of £1500 should be contributed by the persons for whose accommodation the building was designed, or by gentlemen inclined to encourage the undertaking. These terms met with general approbation; and the name of Mr. Hyde also appears in the list of contributors to this fabric.

The *Court House* is neat, but small. Two sessions of the peace are annually held here. The regulations for the maintenance of the laws, at this place, are, indeed, particularly deserving

of praise. Among these it may be mentioned that a regular police was instituted, by act of parliament. Mr. Anderson was, himself, acting chief magistrate. His firmness and impartiality, in the administration of justice, are warmly commended by persons capable of the nicest discrimination. By the exercise of equity and kindness, he won the hearts, and with them the hands, of the first settlers in his new town.

The *Classical School* is not an endowed establishment, but has attained a considerable, and deserved, degree of celebrity. The late Rev. Dr. Adair, who enjoyed the benefice of Fermoy, was formerly at the head of this institution, and was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Dix Hinckes, author of the well-written articles on Ireland in the *Cyclopædia* edited by Dr. Rees.

Here is a *Theatre*, but the present time is not favourable to this place of gay resort, which must, obviously, depend much for encouragement on the military. A race-ground, also, forms one of the attractions designed by the founder of this town.

The mansion erected by the late John Anderson, Esq. as a residence for himself and family, is a handsome and costly building, situated on the banks of the Blackwater, which are extremely beautiful in the immediate vicinity of Fermoy. We must be allowed to express our regret, that a man of so enlarged and benevolent a mind is not still living to occupy this mansion, and blessed with that prosperity to which his warmth of public spirit, and liberality of sentiment, were so well entitled. We should not quit this subject without observing that Mr. Anderson, very properly, received the pecuniary aid of government, in furtherance of several of his projects for public improvement. His son, Sir James Caleb Anderson, was created a baronet, March 22nd, 1813.

Richard Parr, D. D. was born at Fermoy, in 1617. His father was a clergyman, and it is recorded that his mother was fifty-five years of age at the time of his birth. Dr. Parr was, for many years, chaplain to Primate Usher, and distinguished himself as the biographer of that learned and amiable prelate. He was, likewise, author of the work termed "Christian Reformation,"

and a volume of sermons. He died at Camberwell, in Surrey, of which place he had long been vicar, on the 2nd of November, 1691.

The river Blackwater affords much exquisite scenery, as it pursues a devious course from Fermoy towards the town of Mallow. Its banks possess a lovely and captivating variety of hills, often clothed with wood, and in other places exhibiting the contrasted tints of heath and verdure; bold projections of limestone rock, assuming forms greatly conducive to picturesque effect;* and vales, expanding into spreads of soft and pastoral country, rich in cultivation. The antient chieftain, insensible to the charms of nature, or indifferent to their influence, built for security alone among these rocky fastnesses; and the ruins of several castles present fine artificial objects, amidst this glow of natural scenery. To the credit of modern taste, numerous seats have been erected on these inviting banks, in happier times,—ages in which the adjacency of acclivitous rock and deep water has been valued only as an adjunct of the picturesque. We regret that our limits prevent us from bestowing merited attention on more than a few of these demesnes.

Castle-Hyde, the seat of John Hyde, Esq. is situated at a short distance from Fermoy, on the northern bank of the Blackwater. Dr. Smith informs us that “this place was formerly named Cariganedy, i. e. the rock of the shield, where formerly stood a castle, said to have belonged to the Mahonys.” Sir Arthur Hyde, ancestor of the present proprietor of this estate, raised a regiment in England, when the country was threatened with invasion by the Spanish armada, and was made a Knight Banneret by Queen Elizabeth. Her Majesty afterwards granted

* Mr. Townsend, writing upon the subject of this district, observes, that “one of the most singular” of the projections of limestone on these banks, is that termed “*Killavullane rock*, near half-way between Mallow and Fermoy. It hangs over the Blackwater, which has underworn it in such a manner, that, from some points of view, it seems absolutely pendulous. Limestone rocks, various and unequal in the solidity of their texture, derive great irregularities of form from the constant attrition of water.” *Survey of Cork, &c.* vol. i. p. 478.

to him nearly 6,000 acres of land in the county of Cork, which came to the crown on the attainder of Gerald, Earl of Desmond.*

The mansion at this place appears to have been erected in the seventeenth century, but it has been recently much enlarged and modernized; and, when viewed in connexion with its attached grounds, now takes rank amongst the finest seats in Ireland. The house occupies a low, but sheltered and pleasing site, on the immediate margin of the river, having on the north side a protecting rock, now covered with trees and shrubs of various kinds; which rock evidently bestowed on this place its antient and appropriate appellation. The whole of the demesne comprises not less than 1100 acres, and is prolific of beauties in every direction. The river flows through the park, between lofty banks, finely clothed with wood, and here rolls its waters with peculiar and animating rapidity. These extensive grounds, particularly on the south side of the river, are rich in wood, of natural growth and mature age. The plantations, also, are numerous and well-disposed.

Adjoining the demesne of Castle Hyde is CRAIG, the seat of Colonel Stewart. This place fully participates in the charms of the neighbouring district. The gardens and grounds are kept in excellent order, and present, in conjunction with the more extensive contiguous territory, a tract unusually affluent in natural beauties judiciously cultivated.

The Church of Castle Hyde has been lately rebuilt, after a design of considerable elegance, under the auspices of Mr. Hyde, the respected patron of the benefice, with the aid of 450*l.* granted by the Board of First Fruits.

Still further westward, in the direction of Mallow, is CONVAMORE, the seat of Lord Ennismore, one of the representatives of

* Smith's Cork, v. 1. p. 348. In another part of the same work it is stated that Sir Arthur Hyde, the first of this family that obtained a grant of lands in the county of Cork, lived in the *Castle of Cahirdrinny*, about one mile south of Mitchelstown, which was built by the Roches. In this fortress he was often attacked by his Irish neighbours.

this county in parliament, and eldest son of the Earl of Listowel. This very handsome mansion is of recent erection, and is highly ornamental to the fine scenery amidst which it is placed. The view from the front of the house is truly admirable. Here the Blackwater is seen, winding through noble masses of wood, and conducting the eye to the picturesque spectacle of a decayed castle, seated on a lofty eminence upon the border of the waters. Whilst the views from the grounds are thus attractive to the lover of nature, the interior of the mansion abounds in objects calculated to gratify the admirer of the arts. The collection of paintings here repositied is, we believe, unrivalled in the county of Cork, and ranks amongst the best in Ireland. We regret that our limits, and opportunities, do not permit us to do more than mention a few of the most striking pieces. We subjoin the names of the principal masters, in order to convey due ideas respecting the character and value of the remainder of the collection.

Marriage of St. Catherine. *Correggio.*

Holy Family. *Tibaldi.*

Virgin and Child. *Carlo Maratti.*

Sea View. *Vandervelde.*

Assumption of the Virgin. *Luca Giordano.*

Spanish Gardener. *Murillo.*

Holy Family. *Rubens.*

Magdalen. *Ant. Caracci.*

Poultry. *Weenix.*

Other paintings in this collection are by *Rembrandt* ; *Ryckaert* ; *Sebastian Ricci* ; *Canaletti* ; *Poussin* ; *Vernet* ; *Ferdinand Bol* ; *Poelenburg* ; *Watteau* ; *Gerard Hoet* ; *Perugino* ; *Tintoretto* ; *Vinckenbooms* ; and *Roland Saveri.*

Amongst pictures by the English masters are :

A large and fine Landscape. *Wilson.*

Midnight Conversation. *Hogarth.*

Sleeping Girl. *Hoppner.*

Shepherd's Boy. *Gainsborough.*

The Cradle Hymn. *Northcote.*

There are, also, some portraits by *Sir P. Lely*; several landscapes by *Morland*; *Pisher*; *Barrett*; and *Rathbone*; and figures by *Opie*; *Wheatley*; and *Pococke*.

At the confluence of the Awbeg and Blackwater, a tract in which the conjoined rivers run through a rocky glen, very romantic in character, are some remains of the PRIORY OF BRIDGE TOWN, of which building (connected with the family of Roche) we give an account in a future page.

Near the same confluence is CASTLE-WIDENHAM, the seat of Charles Widenham, Esq.

GLANWORTH, a small village on the river Funcheon, at the distance of about four miles from Fermoy, towards the north-west, is entitled to consideration chiefly on account of its decayed castle, which was formerly a building of great extent and strength. There is reason to believe that this structure was erected by the Roches. It was certainly an antient seat of that family, and was inhabited by Lord Fermoy so lately as the year 1601, but was forfeited, by his descendant, in 1641. The ruins are large, and show the building to have been designed in that irregular mode of castellation that united some splendour of internal arrangement with the security of the fortress. In this vicinity (two miles north of the Blackwater) was the *Abbey of Glanworth, or Glanore*, founded, according to Smith, by the Roche family, in 1227, for Friars of the order of St. Dominick; but Bourke makes the foundation to have taken place at a later period.

Glanworth is now a mean village, having no other modern ornament than a very handsome glebe house, built by the Rev. Dr. Woodward, and constituting the residence of that gentleman. From this pleasing abode are obtained delightful views over the contiguous country, in which the ruined Castle of Glanworth forms a principal object.

Near Glanworth is a cromlech, of large dimensions, locally called *Labacolly*, the hag's bed. There were originally two covering stones. The larger of these is placed at the west end,

and is of a wedge-like form, having underneath a level, and on the top a slanting surface. It is nearly sixteen feet in length, six feet six inches in width, and three feet in thickness, towards the centre. The second covering stone is smaller, and has fallen from its original position. The supporters resemble large flags, and are in double rows. The room formed by this rude and ponderous structure appears to have been about twenty-five feet long, and six feet wide. The monument stands nearly east and west; and, at the west end, is a stone, closing the entrance in that direction. Near the cromlech is a tumulus, called by the country people the *hill of Labacolly*.

In the neighbourhood of Fermoy are the ruins of numerous castles, besides those already noticed. These fortresses are generally found on the banks of rivers, and formerly belonged to different members of the once powerful families of Condon and Roche. Amongst them may be noticed the strong CASTLE OF CARRICKABRICKY, situated on the river Brick, at its confluence with the Blackwater. This structure belonged to the Condons, and is boldly seated upon elevated ground, commanding views of the surrounding country, to a considerable extent. Towards the river the former confines of the castle-ward are on a precipitous cliff; and in this direction are some traces of the outer wall. The ruins principally contain parts of the lofty and circular keep. In the walls are traces of passages having round-headed entrances. Three vaulted floorings of stone still partly remain; and in the outer walls are many loop-holes, but no windows. Round the top are remains of machicolations. The building is, altogether, of a harsh character, and depends for its interest with the examiner chiefly on the associations proceeding from a view of the desolate remains of apartments, formerly tenanted by races so dissimilar in manners from those now prevalent. We look in vain for pictorial effect; and, whilst disappointed in the search after such gratification, feel strongly the truth of the remark, that few structures are picturesque in ruin that were not designed in a good style of architecture.

At a short and communicable distance from the ruins above noticed, are those of *Lyclash Castle*, situated on the Bricky. *Rathely*, in this vicinity, also belonged to the Condons. *Dunoon Castle*, on the river Funcheon, is likewise claimed by the same family.

MALLOW, situated in the northern part of this county, is distant 117 miles from Dublin, and 16 from Cork. This is sometimes called the *Bath of Ireland*, on account of its tepid medicinal waters, which attract hither much gay company, as well as many invalids.* The town is of a moderate size, and is finely situated

* It is said that the warm springs of Mallow were first noticed about the commencement of the eighteenth century; but they were not brought into medicinal use until nearly thirty years after that date, when they were recommended to public attention by Dr. Rogers, of Cork. It is certain, however, that one spring at this place had been esteemed at a much more early period, as a reputed holy well, dedicated to St. Patrick. Dr. Smith informs us, that "by repeated trials, he found this water raised the mercury, in Fahrenheit's thermometer, to the degree of sixty-nine; the adjoining brook sank it to fifty. Dr. Rutton, coming directly from Bristol, and trying the same thermometer in Mallow water, as he had done in Bristol water, found the mercury, in the latter, to stand at seventy-six, in the former at sixty-eight, when, in a neighbouring cold spring, it stood at fifty." The following experiments, made by the same author, (vide Hist. of Cork, vol. ii. p. 283) afford the best information that we have it in our power to communicate, respecting the nature and contents of the Mallow water. "Two gallons of this water being evaporated in a well glazed pan, soon after it was taken from the well, deposited a residuum of twenty grains of a grey powder, which, although when removed from the fire was perfectly dry, the same night being rainy, and not taken from the pan, it began to grow moist, so that it was again set over the fire before I took it from the vessel. This calcareous matter (for such I deem it to be) exhibited the following appearances.—It made an effervescence with spirit of oil; being thrown on an hot iron it acquired an extreme sharpness, like quick-lime; with alkalies, as oil of tartar and spirit of sal armoniac, no change ensued; it altered syrup of violets a little greenish, but syrup of cloves made no change in it." The spring issues from a limestone rock, and is believed to discharge about twenty gallons in every minute. The waters are considered to be of efficacy to debilitated constitutions, and in consumptive complaints.

on the Blackwater, which is here crossed by a stone bridge, noticed by Lord Orrery, in 1666, as being the only bridge then over this river.

The comparison between this place and Bath, holds good merely as to the circumstance of both possessing warm springs of a sanative quality; for Mallow, although visited by many genteel families, not only of the south, but from other parts of Ireland, is greatly deficient in elegance of buildings and accommodation. Some considerable improvements have recently taken place in the western part of the town, where several good houses have been erected; but the domestic buildings, in the more antient parts, where many visitors are lodged, are mean and uninviting. Here is no pump room, and the fountain is merely enclosed in a rude stone fabric, aptly said, by a native writer, to be "not very unlike a pig-stye." The approach to the spa is, however, extremely pleasing, it being conducted along walks lined with fine trees, on the border of a canal. Assemblies are held in a building ill-suited to the company with whose presence they are frequently honoured. There are also races, and other amusements incidental to places of this description, which usually thrive by those who are in pursuit of pleasure, rather than by the drooping applicants to the goddess of the fount. The summer is the fashionable part of the year for visiting this spa.

We are told by Smith, that the manor of Mallow formed a distinct seigniory, which belonged to the earls of Desmond. Upon the attainder of the great Earl of Desmond, it was granted to Sir John Norris, lord president of Munster, celebrated for his services in Portugal.* Sir John Jephson, of Moyle, in Hampshire, married the heiress of that distinguished general, and obtained with her this estate, which still belongs to his family, who have a handsome demesne in the neighbourhood.

The town was formerly protected by two castles, one of which was erected by the Earls of Desmond, and is still to be seen, but in a state of ruin. Mallow was the scene of two severe skirmishes, in the civil wars of the seventeenth century. On the 11th of Feb.

* Spencer presented Sir John Norris with a copy of his *Faery Queen*, accompanied by some complimentary verses.

1641-2, Lord Mountgarret entered this place, with some Irish troops. The defence of the south castle was then committed by its owner, Capt. Jephson, to Arthur Bettesworth and a garrison of 200 men, who successfully maintained that fortress, after the inferior, or northern, castle had surrendered. In the year 1690, Mac Donough, who was one of the governors of this county for King James, then recently defeated at the Boyne, assembled some forces, and appeared before the town, intent on fire and plunder. The garrison, aware of his design, had procured a reinforcement of *Danes*, who encountered, in a meadow near the bridge, the ill-disciplined bands of Mac Donough, and routed them with considerable slaughter.

This town returns one member to the imperial parliament. The church is a respectable structure, containing many sepulchral memorials, among which are several to the *Ruby* family, who resided, in the early part of the last century, at Mount-Ruby, in this neighbourhood. The following may, also, be noticed: Captain *George Dillon*, 1668; Cornet *Charles Siburgh*, only son of Lieut. General Siburgh, 6th of April, 1740. Beneath an urn, bearing the arms of King, is a tablet of white marble, inscribed to the memory of the *Rev. William King*, twenty-nine years rector of this parish, who lived beloved by all who knew him, and died as universally lamented. "This tribute of their affection and esteem for his virtues, as a minister, as a friend, and as a man, *has been erected by his parishioners*, to whom he was endeared by his pure religion, his gentle spirit, and amiable deportment in every situation of life. He died the 3rd of March, 1808. *Æt.* 70." In the church-yard is a tomb, sacred to the memory of *Mrs. Champagne*, wife of the Rev. Dean Champagne, who died at Mallow, 21st of August, 1784, in the 63rd year of her age. This lady was mother to the Countess of Uxbridge, and grandmother to the present Marquess of Anglesey, his brothers and sisters.

In the close vicinity of the town, on its southern side, is the seat of the Jephson family, surrounded by an extensive and well-wooded demesne, which is disposed in the best manner of the *ferme ornée*. The grounds are divided into spacious fields,

surrounded with double hedges of quick, from which rise very numerous and well-grown trees. Between the quick fences gravel walks are formed, opening an agreeable communication between the whole of the grounds.

At a short distance from the house, are the decaying remains of the castle formerly belonging to the Earls of Desmond.

The country, in several directions round Mallow, is eminent for natural charms and salubrity of air;—circumstances greatly favourable to the convalescence of invalid visitors of the spa. Walks and rides, in a fine and enlivening tract of country, are, indeed, powerful auxiliaries to most medicinal waters, which will ever be urgently recommended by judicious physicians; and scenery more calculated to soothe the spirits, or breezes more invigorating than those of the country in the neighbourhood of Mallow, are not readily to be found in either of the Irish provinces. This fine district contains numerous seats, several of which, being placed on the borders of the Blackwater, are described in our account of the progress of that river between Fermoy and this place. In addition to those mentioned as objects locally connected with the former town, must be noticed, whilst we are in the neighbourhood of Mallow, ROCKFORREST, the mansion of Sir James Cotter, Bart. This house is situated on rising ground, upon the south bank of the Blackwater. The demesne is richly ornamented with wood.

THE CASTLE OF BLYCLOGH, situated in a pleasing demesne, adjoining the village of that name, to the north-west of Mallow, was the chief seat of the sept of Mac Roberts, or Mac Robert Barry. This is now the estate of the Coote family; Robert Coote, Esq. having married the heiress of — Pardon, Esq., a former proprietor. Among monumental inscriptions in the church, are memorials of the *Pardon*, *Coote*, and *Lysaght* families; also of *Henry Wrixon*, of Blossomfort, Esq., died 20th of March, 1778, aged 73; and *John Longfield*, Esq., of Longneville, died 1765.

BALYGIBLIN, in this neighbourhood, is an elegant seat of the Wrixon family.

MOUNTNORTH is the seat of John Lysaght, Lord Lisle. This family is said (but we know not on what authority) to be descended from the house of O'Brien. They are first recognised in Irish history, for activity in assistance rendered towards suppressing the rebellion of 1641. John Lysaght (then seated at Mountnorth) was a cornet, under the command of Lord Inchiquin, at the battle of Knockinoss, in this neighbourhood. Nicholas, the eldest son of that officer, commanded a troop in King William's own regiment of dragoons, and greatly distinguished himself at the battle of the Boyne. John, the eldest son of Captain Lysaght, sat in parliament for the neighbouring borough of Charleville, and was created Baron Lisle, *of Mountnorth*, on the 18th of Sept. 1759. Near the high road is an obelisk, erected by the first lord Lisle. It resembles, in architectural character, the steeple of a church, the lower part opening into four arches, from one of which we look down on the house and woods of Mountnorth. A flight of stone steps leads to the upper part of the building, where is a latin inscription, of which we present a *verbatim* copy.*

LOGHORT CASTLE, now the property of Lord Arden, is usually said to have been built in the reign of King John. This building consists of a circular tower, about 80 feet in height, which was strongly machicolated, and had few apertures for the admission of light and air. The walls are ten feet thick, and the castle is surrounded by a moat. Loghort was an antient fortress of the Mac Carthys, and was garrisoned by Sir Philip Perceval, in the rebellion of 1641. The Irish gained it by stratagem, and held it, much to the annoyance of their opponents, until May, 1650.

* Georgio Secundo, regi optimo,
 Primo etiam Patre ejus, atque patriæ haud oblitto
 Tertioque magnæ spoli commemorato
 Necnon Gulielmo apud Culloden armis præclaro
 Ob Religionem, Libertatem, et proprietatem,
 In Hibernia precipue restitutam et conservatam
 Hunc Obeliscum erexit subditus fidelis, et gratissimus
 Johannes Lysaght de Mountnorth Armiger.
 Tricesimo die Octobris A. D. 1751.

at which time it surrendered to Sir Hardress Waller. About the middle of the eighteenth century the building was repaired and rendered habitable, by the Earl of Egmont. It was lately the residence of Mr. Purcell.

At a short distance from Loghort Castle is KNOCKIMOSS, the scene of a celebrated battle, fought on the 13th of November, 1647, between the English, under Lord Inchiquin, and an Irish force, commanded by Lord Taaf. A victory, important to the fortunes of Munster, was, on this occasion, gained by the English army.

BALYNAMONA, distant about two miles and a half from Mallow, is the seat of Garret Nagle, Esq. and is situated near the ridge of mountain named after this antient family, which is said to be a younger branch of the house of Nangle, Barons of Navan and of Costelloe.* On rebuilding the church of Balynamona, in 1717, it is recorded by Smith that the workmen "found a large spur, and the head of an antique spear, probably belonging to one of the knights buried here in his martial habiliments."

Near Balynamona are the ruins of a building, termed the **PRECEPTORY OF MOURNE**, founded, or at least principally endowed, by Alexander de St Helena, in the reign of John. "The possessions of this preceptory," say Smith and Archdall, "were granted to Tiede Mac Carty, whose descendants forfeited them in the rebellion of 1641, yet they are still called by the name of *Masters of Mourne*." The foundation-walls of these ruins enclosed several acres of ground; and, in addition to the present

* A principal seat of the Nagle family was at Moneanymy, in the Barony of Fermoy. Richard Nagle, often termed Nagle of Moneanymy, and John Nagle, Esq. his son and heir, resided there in 1640. Sir Richard Nagle, of Moneanymy, Knt. was secretary of war, in 1690, to James II. whom he followed into exile. It is said that the weak James, *after his abdication*, had created Sir Richard Nagle, with other of his ruined adherents, peers of Ireland! Lord Kingston is, at present, lord of this manor. Montmorency MSS.

remains, a castellated building upon the south, and two towers towards the west, were standing in the early part of the last century.

In the vicinity of Mallow is likewise, AGHNAKISHA, the scat of Pierce Nagle, Esq. chief of that name.

The CASTLE OF BALLYNOOLLY, a strong and spacious pile, was erected by the Barrets, from which family a barony in this county derives its name; but the chief seat of this antient family was at *Castlemore*, in the northern extremity of the Barony of Barrets.* Ballyncolly was garrisoned by Cromwell, and was also put in a state of defence for King James II.

The river Awbeg, which takes its rise to the west of Buttervant, and enters the Blackwater in the vicinity of Bridgetown, greatly ornaments that part of the country through which it pursues its brief course. This river has a winding and desultory progress, in a district replete with charms. Its course is placid, and it glides in dimpling eddies, worthy the celebration of the muse. This is the river poetically termed by Spencer the *Gentle Mulla*, and on its borders is KILCOLMAN, the now ruinous castle in which he once resided.

Although placed in a region eminently attractive for beauties of a soft and pastoral character, the immediate vicinity of Kilcolman must have been chill and dispiriting, even in days of the castle's greatest prosperity. The building is situated on the north-side of the Awbeg, or Mulla, at the distance of rather more than two miles from the village of Doneraile. It is surrounded by an extensive plain, which terminates, to the east, in the mountains of the county of Waterford. On the north are the Ballyhoura mountains, termed by Spencer the mountains of Mole.

* It is recorded that O'Nial, Earl of Tyrone, when marching by Castlemore, in the year 1600, on his progress to Kinsale, for the support of the Spaniards, enquired who lived in that castle? On being told that it was Barret, who was a good catholic, and whose family had been possessed of the estate for above 400 years, he exclaimed, with an oath, "No matter! I hate the English churl as if he had landed only yesterday."

The Nagle mountains rise towards the south; and, on the west, are the mountains of Kerry. When the uplands were adorned with wood, this scenery may have received some amelioration of character, but, under all circumstances, it would appear that Spencer must have pursued the meanders of the Mulla in haunts at some distance from home, for objects to enrich his descriptive pages. It may, indeed, be observed that whilst he bestows the fondest terms of admiration on "Mulla fair and bright," he says little concerning any pretensions to beauty in his own peculiar domain.

The ruins present the remains of the principal tower, in a castellated building of some strength and extent. The outlines and vestiges of several apartments may still be distinctly traced. The lower of these rooms appears to have been used as a hall, or kitchen, and is arched with stone. The stairway of the tower still exists, and leads to the decaying remains of a small chamber. Little can be added, concerning this interesting ruin, except that the remaining windows command extensive prospects. Over the adjacent ground are spread many fragments of building.

Kilcolman Castle formerly belonged to the Earl of Desmond, and was granted to Edmund Spencer by Queen Elizabeth, together with 3028 acres of land in this county, being part of the forfeited estates of that earl. The biography of Spencer is of such familiar access, that it cannot be necessary for us to enter into even a brief analysis of it, in this place. It may, however, be desirable to present some few memoranda, relating to his connexion with Ireland.

He appears to have first entered this country in 1580, as secretary to the lord deputy, Lord Grey of Wilton; but he returned to England with that nobleman, in 1582. He received the grant of Kilcolman in 1586, and commenced his residence at this place in the following year. In 1590, he accompanied Sir Walter Raleigh to England, for the purpose of publishing the three first books of "The Faery Queen." He returned to Ireland in 1591; and, about that time, married a woman whose real excellencies are said to have substantiated the good qualities he

had ascribed to the "Rosalinda" of his youthful fancy. Here, with conjugal tenderness to brighten the blaze on the hearth of his reclusé castle, and the muse to bestow unearthly tints on the verdant banks of the Mulla, he passed between three and four years, which, probably, notwithstanding his distaste for Ireland, may be reckoned among the most agreeable of his life.

In 1595, the disturbed state of the country caused him to take refuge in England; whence he returned to Kilcolman in 1597, and staid here until the following year. A calamitous termination was then effected to all his hopes of tranquillity in this island. In 1598, the rebellion of Tyrone distracted the kingdom, and acts of outrage, under the name of retaliation, were levelled, with particular ferocity, at the settlers on the forfeited estates of Desmond. Spencer fled, with his wife, to England; but his castle was partly destroyed by fire, and his property plundered. It has been said that his infant child perished in the flames; but such an assertion appears to rest on the authority of a conversation between Ben Jonson and Drummond, published in the works of the last-named writer. It is well known that Spencer did not long survive this scene of distress.

The few anecdotes connected with his residence at Kilcolman, impart an irresistible charm to the ruins, and to the country in their vicinity. It was here that he wrote the *Faery Queen*, a work exhibiting some of the highest powers of a poetical imagination. Several of his other poems were, also, composed at this place; and it has been justly concluded that he was indebted to the neighbouring country for much of his rural imagery, and most of his allusions to natural scenery.* At Kilcolman he received, in 1589, a visit from Sir Walter Raleigh, who had also obtained from the crown a large grant of Irish land. In "Colin Clout's

* Particular and direct allusions to the rivers, mountains, and prominent points of scenery in the neighbourhood of Kilcolman, will be found in different parts of the *Faery Queen*, and chiefly in the sixth canto of that poem. In "Mutability" he, likewise, celebrates the barony of Fermoy, or Armoy, under the name of Armilla. In "Colin Clout's come home again" the river Mulla is made a conspicuous object. It is observable

come home again," he celebrates this visit, and describes Sir Walter under the title of "Shepherd of the Ocean:"

——— I sate, as was my trade,
Under the foot of Mole, that mountain bore;
Keeping my sheep amongst the coolly shade
Of the green alders, by the Mulla's shore.
There a strange shepherd chaunc'd to find me out,
Whether allur'd with my pipe's delight,
Whose pleasing sound yehrilled far about,
Or thither led by chance, I know not right;
Whom when I ask'd, from what place he came?
And how he hight?—himself he did ycleep,
The Shepherd of the Ocean by name,
And said he came far from the main-sea deep.

However favourable might be the retirement of this place to the indulgence of poetical speculations, it is too evident that, when the muse failed to bestow an air of romance on the surrounding scenery, Spencer viewed his residence in Ireland as a painful banishment. The reign of Elizabeth was, indeed, a most unfavourable juncture for a poet, in search of rural peace, to settle in this island. He has very unequivocally expressed, in his "View of the State of Ireland," his dislike of the people among whom his lot was cast. Such antipathies are generally mutual. We have often had occasion to notice the tenacity with which the peasants of this country cherish, either sentiments of affection or

that he describes Ireland as a country deriving much of its picturesque attraction from *wood*, as well as from its numerous streams:

Whylome, when Ireland flourish'd in fame
Of wealths and goodnesse, far above the rest
Of all that beare the British Islands name;
The Gods then us'd (for pleasure and for rest)
Oft to resort thereto, when seem'd them best:
But none, of all, therein more pleasure found
Then Cynthi'a, that is soveraine Queene profest
Of woods and forrests, which therein abound,
Sprinkled with wholsom waters, more then most on ground.

feelings of aversion. A recent pedestrian tourist (Mr. Trotter) who, from the mode of his travelling, had particular opportunities of mixing with the peasantry in the neighbourhood of Kilcolman, affirms that "the name and occupation of Spencer are handed down traditionally among them, but that they seem to entertain no sentiments of respect, or affection, for his memory."

Little is known concerning the descendants of the poet. It is said by Chalmers, that "two sons are reported to have survived him, Sylvanus and Peregrine. Sylvanus married Ellen Nangle, or Nagle, eldest daughter of David Nangle, of Moneanymy, in the county of Cork; by whom he had two sons, Edmund and William Spencer. His other son, Peregrine, also married, and had a son Hugolin, who, after the restoration of Charles II. was replaced, by the Court of Claims, in as much of the lands as could be found to have been his ancestor's. Hugolin attached himself to the cause of James II., and, after the revolution, was out-lawed. Some time after, his cousin William, the son of Sylvanus, became a suitor for the forfeited property, and recovered it, by the interest of Mr. Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax, to whom he had been introduced by Congreve."

The estate has long since passed away from the Spencer family, but it is said that a lineal descendant and namesake of the poet was living, about thirty years back, at Mallow. It is stated by Dr. Smith, that when he compiled his work on this county, an original portrait of Spencer was preserved at Castle Saffron, near Doneraile; but this curious picture is now gone from that seat, nor does the owner of the residence know where it can be found.

BUTTEVANT, a decayed town, seated on the river Awbeg, was once a place of considerable celebrity, under the patronage of the Barry family, to which house it gives the title of viscount in the Irish peerage. Its antient name is said to have been *Kilnemulagh*, to which Spencer alludes, in his poem of Colin Clout:

Mulla, the daughter old Mole so hight
The Nymph which of that water course has charge,

That, springing out of Mole, doth run down right
 To Buttevant, where, spreading forth at large,
 It giveth name unto that antient cittie
 Which *Kilnemullah* cleped is of old.

General Vallancey, with a spirit of refinement that adds no credit to antiquarian investigations, is desirous of deducing the etymology of Buttevant from the Indo-Scythian; but ordinary inquirers find no difficulty in attributing it to the genuine Gallic *Boutex-avant*, Push forward! which is the motto of the Barrymore family, and is said to have been *the word* used in a battle fought in this neighbourhood, between the Barrys and Mac Carthys.

The family of Barry had a strong castle here, and they enriched the place by several monastic foundations. The remains of these buildings, however, constitute the principal memorials respecting the history of Buttevant, in the early ages of Anglo-Norman ascendancy. The chief military events, on record, relate to periods comparatively recent. Sir Henry Sydney, lord deputy of Ireland, took this town from the Irish in 1569; and, in the campaign of 1691, it was burnt by the English.

Buttevant is now reduced to the character of a mean village; but the traces of walls, by which it was formerly surrounded and fortified, are still apparent. Among its humble tenements are seen, in mournful and impressive profusion, the wrecks of monasteries and churches, which must have once imparted to its streets an unusual degree of ecclesiastical splendour.

The chief ruin is that of a *Monastery for Conventual Franciscans*, founded by the family of Barry at an unknown date, but certainly prior to the year 1273. The remains of the buildings are still of some extent; but a handsome and well-executed square tower, which rose from the centre, and formed their principal feature, fell down, a very few years since, and its disjoined materials now incumber the interior. The walls of the choir and nave, together with various dependent parts of the structure, are standing, and display many traces of former architectural labours, in the pointed style of design.

It is said by Smith and Archdall, that the tomb of the founder, David de Barry, lord chief justice of Ireland, usually

styled the first Viscount of Battevant, is still to be seen in the choir, opposite the great altar ; but this monument is now mutilated, and the fragments are of no interest.* On the south side of the nave is a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, that contains numerous monuments and inscriptions, several of which are for the families of Barry, Fitzgerald, and Butler. Some " remains of fine paintings in fresco, on the walls of this monastery," are mentioned by Archdall ; but the traces now visible are far from being entitled to the commendation bestowed on them by that writer. Beneath the chancel is a crypt, supported by a cluster of pillars, having ornamented capitals. This is a very unusual feature in the ecclesiastical buildings of Ireland, and arises, in the present instance, from a peculiarity of site, the chancel being erected on the bank of the river Awbeg. At the entrance of the abbey is a large pile of skulls and bones, said to be those of persons who perished at the battle of Knockinoss, noticed in a previous page.

At a short distance from the abbey-buildings, towards the north-west, and within the limits of the burial ground, is a square tower, which, probably, was used as a place of security for the inmates and valuables of the monastery, in times of violence. It is traditionally said to have been erected by an Earl of Desmond, who retired hither.

Near the abbey are some unimportant vestiges of a building, thought to have been a nunnery, concerning which no authentic intelligence has been discovered.

The present parochial church is a modern structure,† but there were formerly two more churches in this town, one dedicated

* A modern tourist in the south of Ireland states that " the vault of David de Barry being recently opened, to inter a descendant, a man, who went down with the coffin, described the interior as lined with the figures of different saints, the name engraven under each, and having at the upper end a tablet, on which was a long inscription."—*Researches in the South of Ireland*, p. 114.

† Over the church door is an inscription, importing that the steeple was erected in the year 1806. In the church is a monumental inscription, of considerable length, to the family of *Watkins*, of Ballymee and Water-

to St. Bridget, and the other to the Virgin Mary, both of which stood in one church-yard.

Here is a free-school, founded by Frances Lady Lanesborough, sixth daughter to Richard, Earl of Dorset.

On the banks of the river Awbeg, to the east of the town, is *Castle Barry*, a former defensible residence of the family after whom it is named. This building occupies a bold and rocky site, but does not appear to have been of eminent strength or magnitude. Within the court a modern house was erected, early in the last century. This estate was purchased from Richard, Earl of Barrymore, by the late John Anderson, Esq. of Fermoy, who repaired a part of the castle buildings, but without any attention to their former architectural character.

At the distance of about one mile from Buttevant, are the remains of the *PRIORY OF BALLYBEG*, founded by Philip de Barry, about the year 1229, for canons regular following the rule of St. Augustin, and dedicated to St. Thomas. This priory possessed lands to the extent of 2060 Irish acres, besides valuable tithes. In the church was erected an equestrian statue of the founder, executed in brass. The ruins shew the buildings to have been large, but there are no traces of architectural beauty to be discovered.

DONERAILE, seated on the river Awbeg, at the distance of rather more than three miles from Buttevant, depends for its interest with the visiter on the contiguous mansion belonging to the ennobled family of St. Leger. The village, though agreeably situated, and containing some respectable houses, is not remarkable for beauty. The church is a commodious and eligible building, completed in 1816, with the aid of 2000*l.* lent by the Board of First Fruits.* A grant for a weekly market at Doneraile was procured

park. In the church-yard, among other funeral-memorials, are several to the families of Norcott; Blood; Crofts; Harris; and Bunworth.

* The church of Doneraile was first built by Sir William St. Leger, in 1633; but that fabric, together with the principal part of the town, was burned by the Irish in 1645. It was rebuilt by Arthur, Lord Doneraile, in 1726.

by Sir William St. Leger, in 1634; but the market has long since fallen into disuse. In 1679, a patent was obtained, granting that the freeholders of the same town should return burgesses to parliament; and this nominal privilege they possessed until the date of the Union.

Doneraile has formed the seat of the St. Leger family, since the early part of the seventeenth century, at which time Sir William St. Leger held here his court of presidency for the province of Munster. Few families have risen to wealth and honours, through serving the state in Ireland, with more claims on the esteem of posterity. Sir Anthony St. Leger, lord deputy in the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Mary, was one of the wisest and most useful governors placed over this country in the sixteenth century. His grandson, Sir William, was appointed lord president of Munster, by Charles I., in 1637, and exercised, with fidelity and moderation, the duties of this high office, in times peculiarly trying. The rebellion of 1641 called into active exercise his talents, as a statesman and a soldier. He rendered important service in both capacities; but his growing infirmities would not enable him long to sustain the hardships and anxieties to which he was then exposed, and he died in July, 1642. Arthur St. Leger, his descendant, was created, in 1703, Baron of Kilmaydon and Viscount Doneraile. The titles became extinct in 1767, through failure of male issue; but St. Leger Aldworth, Esq. descended from a female branch of the St. Leger family, assumed the name and arms of St. Leger, and was created baron Doneraile, of Doneraile, in 1776, and viscount of the same in 1785.

Near the present bridge of Doneraile stood, formerly, a massive building, by some writers denominated a castle, in which Sir William St. Leger held his presidency court. This spot will scarcely be viewed without a train of recollections, and much exercise of the fancy, concerning the momentous transactions of past days. Near the court was the dwelling of the president, which was burned by the Irish, in the year 1645.

The present seat of lord Doneraile is a large and handsome building, situated in a park of great extent and beauty. The

house is placed on rising ground, and commands a fine home-view, in which the river Awbeg, which winds through this demesne, constitutes a principal feature. There is, also, an extensive piece of artificial water, and the whole of the grounds are enriched with a profusion of wood, truly ornamental in growth and arrangement. The surface is varied by fine and graceful swells; and the wide spreads of lawn appear to be of velvety softness. Although these grounds, like those at Castle Martyr, are destitute of grand and commanding objects, with the exception of their venerable wood alone, they are of a stronger character than those, and are decidedly more pleasing, as they evince less obvious efforts of art.*

The village of CASTLETOWN ROCHE is situated upon the thickly-wooded side of a rocky hill, that overhangs the river never viewed by us without an emotion of melancholy pleasure,—the “gentle Mulla” of Spencer, but the Awbeg of prosaic writers. The village has little to detain the examiner; but, seated near the summit of the eminence, is a massy square tower, forming the remains of a castle, long inhabited in baronial splendour, by the family of Roche, viscounts Fermoy.

* It is a circumstance particularly gratifying, in the disposal of modern pleasure-grounds, that, where extraneous embellishments are introduced, the statues and temples, fashionable a century ago, give place to buildings of the simplest kind, and, generally, to such as have a rural allusion. The Irish excel in such tasteful introductions, as may be instanced by several parts of the demesne at Doneraile. A cottage commanding fine sylvan views, has been noticed, in terms of admiration, by every tourist that has visited this place. The romantic wildness of Mr. Trotter's genius was well-suited to this subject, and we present his ardent and flowery description.—“The cottage is situated on a small island, round which flows, with melodious gurgling, Spencer's “Mulla.” It is shaded by some noble ash trees, that bend over the sacred stream, which poetry has consecrated to distant time. The cottage is environed by a garden of sweets and ever-greens, and designed in the chastest rural style. The interior consists of a very elegant and commodious apartment, where the harp may pour its trembling notes along the Mulla's responsive waves.” *Walks through Ireland*, p. 296.

One of the most striking passages in the annals of this castle, relates to the wars under Elizabeth.—Lord Roche, falling under suspicion of disloyalty, in the year 1580, the military commander stationed at Cork, ordered Captain (afterwards Sir Walter) Raleigh, to seize that nobleman and his lady, and convey them directly to head quarters. Raleigh quitted Cork, with about ninety men, at ten o'clock at night, and reached Castle Roche in safety; although the seneschal of Imokilly (an old opponent and personal enemy of Raleigh) having notice of this design, had assembled several hundred men, for the purpose of intercepting him, either in his march or on his return.

Raleigh arrived at an early hour of the morning, and marched directly up the hill to the entrance of the castle. The neighbouring peasants flew to arms; but, having drawn up his small force, he took with him his attached adherent, Nicholas Wright, and five others, and demanded admittance. With some difficulty, he and his six attendants entered; and, after he had introduced himself to Lord Roche, he contrived, by degrees, to collect more of his men, some of whom he directed to guard the iron gate of the court lodge, and suffer no man to pass. Others he placed in the hall, with their arms ready. With constrained politeness, Lord Roche begged his company to dinner; and, after the repast, Raleigh explained the object of his visit. The baron demurred, and at length positively refused to move. But, when informed that force must be used if he persisted in such a refusal, he yielded, and the whole party set forward. The night proved dark and stormy, with torrents of rain; and their road was, in many places, rocky and dangerous. But the gloom of the season, and noises of the tempest, preserved them from worse perils. They eluded the seneschal and his armed numbers, and reached Cork by break of day. It was subsequently proved that Lord Roche was innocent of the treachery with which he was charged; but for the rashness of the seizure Raleigh was by no means accountable, as he had merely obeyed the command of a superior officer.

The family of Roche was less fortunate in the civil wars which commenced in 1641. In those times of trouble, Maurice, Lord Roche, was attainted, and forfeited his estates. In 1649, his lady bravely defended this castle for some days, but was compelled to surrender, in consequence of the destructive fire from a battery, erected by the assailants on a field upon the opposite side of the river, still termed the camp-field. Notwithstanding an ardent personal, as well as political, attachment evinced by Lord Roche to Charles II. it is known that he, with his lady and six children, depended for subsistence, at a time subsequent to the restoration, on the bounty of their friends. The late Sir Boyle Roche, many years a member of the Irish parliament, in which he was ludicrously eminent for his continual blunders, was supposed to be the next of kin to the last viscount Fermoy.

At BRIDGE-TOWN, seated near the confluence of the Blackwater and the Awbeg, are the remains of an abbey, founded by the Roche family for regular canons of the order of St. Augustine. These ruins possess little architectural interest, and consist chiefly of the vestiges of the abbey-church, together with those of an attached chapel. The cloisters, and the outlines of a room thought to have been the refectory, may also be traced. Many of the Roche family were here interred, and two of their monuments are still discernible. One of these is situated near the former site of the high altar, and is, consequently, supposed to be that of the founder. Among some rude ornaments on this monument, is a shield, charged with one fish; but no inscription is now to be seen. The second monument of the Roches is in the adjoining chapel, and is merely inscribed A. D. 1634. THEOBALD ROCH. Several architectural fragments, dispersed over the ground, prove that the interior was once abundantly, if not richly, ornamented.*

The straggling and mean town of KILWORTH, is situated at the foot of the bleak tract, usually denominated the Kilworth mountain.

* Some good wood-cuts, representing several of these architectural vestiges, and four antient monumental stones, are given in Mr. Croker's "Researches in the South of Ireland."

The town is watered by the Douglass, which here falls into the Funcheon; and the united rivers join the Blackwater, after a progress of about one mile. This place gives the title of baron to the family of Moore, Earl of Mountcashell, whose fine demesne, termed MOORE PARK, adjoins the town. It is mentioned in the pedigree of the family, that this estate was purchased, in the year 1684, by Stephen Moore, Esq., ancestor of the present Lord Mountcashell, for the sum of 5500*l.*, of Henry Fleetwood, Esq. The house is commodious rather than elegant, in an architectural point of view. The park and grounds are extremely fine, and acquire many charms of scenery from the flow of the river Funcheon, which here pursues a winding course through a channel skirted by limestone rocks, often adorned with wood, and producing a great variety of beautiful forms.

Within the demesne of the Earl of Mountcashell, stands the ancient CASTLE OF CLOGLEAGH, placed in a commanding situation, near the conflux of the Funcheon and Araglin. This was a castle of the Condons. Patrick Condon, of Clogleagh, having been actively engaged in Desmond's rebellion of 1588, forfeited his estate. A considerable part, however, (including, we presume, the demesne at present termed Moore Park) was restored to him. But we find it to have been, soon after, in the possession of an English family. Sir Richard Fleetwood was proprietor in 1641; but, on the breaking out of the civil war, the old proprietor, Condon, was reinstated in this castle, through the means, as is said, of Arthur Hyde, of Castle Hyde. He fortified and garrisoned Clogleagh for the royal cause; but, on the 23rd July, 1642, the castle yielded to a force under Lord Barrymore. It was soon after retaken by Condon; but was besieged, a second time, in 1643, by Sir Charles Vavasour, and, after a gallant resistance, was taken by storm. In the absence of Vavasour, the garrison, men, women, and children, were massacred by the soldiery!

Near the junction of the Funcheon and Blackwater is CAREY'S VILLE, the seat of Peter Carey, Esq.

MITCHELSTOWN, distant from Kilworth three miles, towards the north, had few claims on consideration, until improved, within the last half century, by the family of King, Earl of Kingston, its proprietors and patrons. Under the care of this noble family, it now wears, in its principal parts, an air of respectability, but is still a place of little trade or importance. The church is a handsome new building, erected chiefly through the munificent aid of Lady Kingston, who, also, bestowed on it a fine service of silver, doubly gilt, for the use of the communion-table. The Roman Catholic Chapel is, likewise, a handsome building. The ground for this structure was given, and, we believe, the expense of the building partly defrayed, by the late Lord Kingston.

An Hospital, termed the *College of Mitchelstown*, was founded by the Kingston family, for the comfortable maintenance of twelve decayed gentlemen, and the same number of gentlewomen, the latter of whom have been recently increased to sixteen. Each inmate has a small house and garden, and an annual salary of 40*l.* paid quarterly. A chapel appertains to this establishment, and the chaplain has a salary of 120*l.* per annum, with a good house and garden.

Several schools have been instituted by Lady Kingston, together with a village library, and some other judicious establishments for ameliorating the condition of the poor. Among these we must not omit to notice public shops, for the sale of the necessaries of life, on prompt payment, at wholesale prices. We have had an opportunity of witnessing the successful prosecution of a similar plan for rescuing the humble parts of society from the rapacity of petty dealers, and from the temptation of incurring debts, under the auspices of Dr. Barrington, bishop of Durham, in the neighbourhood of his lordship's seat at Mongewell, in Oxfordshire, and we think that it cannot be too warmly recommended to frequent adoption.

Dr. Smith says that there was formerly a round or pillar tower, which stood 30 yards from the south-west angle of the former church, and which fell to the ground in the early part of the eighteenth century. He adds that the building was attributed to St. Fina-

chan, whose festival is kept here on the 35th of November. As an instance of longevity, it may be mentioned that John Newell, grandson of Thomas Parr, died at Mitchelstown, at the age of 137 years. It may be, likewise, noticed, as another memorable instance of lengthened life in the Parr family, that Catharine Parr, great-granddaughter of Thomas, died in Skiddy's Almshouses, Cork, in 1793, aged 108 years.

The mansion of the Kingsborough family is contiguous to the town, and is a spacious structure, finely situated on an eminence commanding a grand display of mountain scenery. It was erected by Robert Lord Kingsborough, afterwards second earl of Kingston, about the year 1778. But, since our inspection of this neighbourhood, the design of a new mansion has been formed by the Earl of Kingston, the site of which, we believe, is not to be far distant from that of the present house.

The pleasure-grounds and gardens are very fine, and the whole of this noble demesne contains not less than 1300 English acres, enclosed with a wall, ten feet in height. Large plantations were made by Lord Kingsborough, when he erected the house, and the whole of the grounds are much indebted to the improvements then effected.

Sir John King, Bart. progenitor of the Kingsborough and Lorton families, married Catharine, daughter and heir of Sir William Fenton; and on the decease of Sir William, in 1666, he acceded, in right of his wife, to the fine and extensive lordship of Mitchelstown.

Within the demesne of the Earl of Kingston is one of the most curious natural caves to be found in any part of Ireland, and which has been thought, by some examiners, to be of superior interest to the far-famed cavern of the Peak, in Derbyshire. It is termed *Stokewrinky*, and is situated near the road between Mitchelstown and Cahir.*

* Mr. Arthur Young, who passed, we believe, nearly a twelvemonth at Mitchelstown, engaged in the management of the estate belonging to the Kingston family, descended into this cavern several times, and has left the following account of one of these subterranean investigations:

One mile from Mitchelstown, towards the south, stands the CASTLE OF CAHERDRIN, to which we have alluded in our account of Castle Hyde. The building is placed on a hill, and forms a prominent object in the views from most parts of the neighbouring country. It is said by Smith and Seward that this castle was formerly a fastness belonging to the Roche family; but such an assertion is decidedly erroneous, as the Condons were the ancient proprietors. Richard Fitz Piers-Condon, surnamed Ny-Caharrach, of *Caherdryng*, was attainted under the sweeping act of the 26th of Elizabeth.

CHARLEVILLE, situated near the northern extremity of this county, is a small and humble town, but a considerable thoroughfare, as it stands upon the great road leading from Cork to Limerick. This place is entirely indebted, for some share of past celebrity, to the patronage of Roger Lord Broghill, first Earl of Orrery, who held here his court, as Lord President of Munster.

"The opening to the cave is a cleft of rock in a limestone hill, so narrow as to be difficult to get into it. I descended by a ladder of about twenty steps, and then found myself in a vault, of 100 feet long, and 50 or 60 high. A small hole, on the left, leads from this a winding course of, I believe, not less than half an Irish mile, exhibiting a variety that struck me much. In some places the cavity in the rock is so large, that, when well lighted up by candles, it takes the appearance of a vaulted cathedral, supported by massy columns. The walls, ceiling, floor, and pillars are, by turns, composed of every fantastic form; and often of very beautiful incrustations of spar, some of which glitters so much that it seems powdered with diamonds, and in others the ceiling is formed of that sort which has so near a resemblance to a cauliflower. The spar formed into columns by the dropping of water, has taken some very regular forms; but others are different, folded in plaits of light drapery, which hang from their support in a very pleasing manner. The angles of the walls seem fringed with icicles. One very long branch of the cave, which turns to the north, is, in some places, so narrow and low, that one crawls into it, when it suddenly breaks into large vaulted spaces, in a thousand forms. The spar, in all this cave, is very brilliant, and almost equal to Bristol stone. For several hundred yards in the larger branch, there is a deep water at the bottom of the declivity to the right, which the common people call the river." *Young's Tour*, vol. ii. pp. 279-280.

The name was originally *Rathgogan*, which that nobleman changed to the present appellation, because it was "a heathenish name."

The lord president commenced at Charleville, in the year 1661, a mansion, said to have been of a magnificent character. The completion of this structure was one of the last objects that amused his declining years, and, unfortunately, the building did not long survive its eminent founder. In 1690, the Duke of Berwick, marching through this part of the country, at the head of some soldiery in the interest of James II. halted here, and dined in the house of the late president and bitter enemy of the "old religion." When the banquet was ended, his followers set fire to the mansion, and it was speedily burned to the ground.*

In this town the same Lord Orrery endowed a free-school; and his descendant, the fifth Earl of Orrery, founded here a charter working-school, which was opened in 1748, and still exists. The first earl also erected the parochial church. In the year 1669, he procured a charter of incorporation for Charleville; and, at the same time, the town and lands of Beoghill, a part of Rathgogan, and other lands in this neighbourhood, extending into the county of Limerick, were erected into a manor, to be called the manor of Charleville, with liberty for the earl to use 800 acres as a domain, and to fortify his residence.

This town is now a regular station of military. Like the neighbouring town of Buttevant it is deficient in fuel, a circumstance that must necessarily prevent it from ever becoming a place of great population and trade.

* This was, assuredly, a mean and reprehensible act of party vengeance, but, as certainly, little favour could be expected from a commander of the Duke of Berwick's principles, where property of the bigoted Lord Orrery was concerned. In a letter to the Duke of Ormonde, relating to the improvement of his new town of Charleville, his lordship observes, "I admit neither presbyter, papist, independent, nor, as our proclamation says, any other sort of fanatic to plant there: but all good protestants." Such was the spirit that Lord Orrery imbibed from his father, Richard Earl of Cork, who had found it, we should apprehend, more conducive to personal profit than to public tranquillity.

BLACGMILL, to the west of Charleville, which gives the title of baron, in the Irish peerage, to the family of Boyle, Earl of Cork and Orrery, was a castle and estate of the Fitzgeralds. The title was first bestowed in the year 1628, on Roger Boyle, third son of Richard, first Earl of Cork.

LISCARROL, a small village, to the south-west of Charleville, is rendered of some interest by the ruins of its castle, a building connected with several important passages of history. The Castle of Liscarrol was erected soon after the entry of the Anglo-Normans, but was much altered in subsequent years, and belonged for many ages to the Barrys, from whom it passed to the Perceval family. In the civil wars which commenced in 1641, this constituted one of a line of fortresses, garrisoned and defended by Sir Philip Perceval, for the defence of his Munster property. In August, 1642, Liscarrol was besieged by an Irish army, reported to have been 7000 strong. Sir Philip had surrounded the castle by a strong covert way, and other devices of modern fortification, which enabled the garrison to maintain a successful resistance for thirteen days; and at last they were allowed to surrender upon honourable conditions.

On September 3rd (the day following the surrender of the castle) Lord Inchiquin appeared at Liscarrol, with an army in favour of the garrison, said to have consisted of no more than 2000 foot and 400 horse. A battle ensued, which was fought in a tract to the west of the castle. In the Irish army were Lords Mountgarret, Roche, Muskery, and several other noblemen. Amongst distinguished persons on the English side, may be named, besides the commander, Lord Inchiquin, the Lords Barrymore, Dungarvan, Kinalmeaky, and Broghill, with Mr. Francis Boyle, afterwards Lord Shannon. Thus, the Earl of Cork had four sons in this engagement. A victory was gained by the English, with the loss of Lord Kinalmeaky, who fell in the action. Mr. Boyle, then a youth of nineteen, very gallantly brought off the body of his brother, at the imminent hazard of his own life.

This castle was a second time besieged by the Irish, in 1646. The assailants were commanded by Lord Castlehaven; and the garrison, as was thought through treachery rather than cowardice, surrendered without firing a shot. In 1650, it was retaken from the Irish, by Sir Hardress Waller.

The ground plan of the castle is an oblong square, and the outward walls were flanked by six lofty towers, two of which were square and four circular. The fortress was dismantled by Waller, and, after that event, it progressively sank in a state of decay.

KANTURK is a small but thriving town, situated near the confluence of the Aile (celebrated by Spencer) and the Dullua. Wool-combing, and the manufacture of serge, are here carried on, much to the benefit of the inhabitants, and an active commercial spirit appears very generally to prevail. This place, and a contiguous tract of country, constituting the present barony of Duhallow, formerly belonged to a branch of the Mac Cartys, termed Mac Donough. Kanturk was the principal residence of the chief of this sept, who lived in considerable splendour, and is styled, in several old chronicles, "Prince of Duhallow." In the reign of Elizabeth, Mac Donough erected, at this place, the building known by the name of *Kanturk Castle*, which, however, is rather a fortified house than a castle. The design is an oblong, 120 feet in length by 80 in breadth, flanked at each angle with a square and embattled tower, defensible against sudden assault, but not calculated to withstand a regular siege.

The main building was four stories in height, and the towers five stories. The windows were numerous but small, and the frames, or window-cases, were of hewn stone, as were also the coignes and battlements. This was, undoubtedly, the finest building undertaken by any Irish chieftain, of so early a period. The suspicious character of the times caused certain watchful persons to represent to the queen that this house was an object of danger, in the hands of an Irish subject; and orders were issued for the works to be stopped. It was, accordingly, never com-

pleted ; but the decaying walls have handed down to posterity a very memorable example of an increasing taste for architectural improvement, in the more enlightened Irish of the sixteenth century.

The estate of Kanturk was forfeited by Mac Donough, in the rebellion of 1641, and was subsequently procured by Sir Philip Perceval, to whom it had previously been mortgaged. From that baronet it has descended to the Earl of Egmont, the present possessor, who takes from Kanturk the title of viscount, in the peerage of Ireland.

NEWMARKET, on the river Dullua, to the north-west of Kanturk, is a place of little consideration. The Aldworth family, a branch of the Aldworths, formerly of Stanlake, in Berkshire, have here a handsome seat. In this town were passed the early years of the celebrated forensic orator, John Philpot Curran. His father filled the humble office of senechal in the manor-court of Newmarket. His first instruction was received at a small school here ; and about the street of this town the future ornament of his country, rambled, to use his own words, " a little ragged apprentice to every kind of idleness and mischief." He was removed hence, while yet very young, to the school of Middleton, through the benevolent patronage of Mr. Boyse, rector of Newmarket.*

* At Newmarket was born, in 1677, an unhappy person, named *William Clark*, whose skeleton still constitutes an object of curiosity, and is shewn as that of the *Ossified man*. It appears that, in his infancy, this peculiar person " was never observed to turn his head round, nor bend his body. When a boy he could only reach his hands as high as the level of his elbow ; nor could he ever put them behind his back." His under-jaws were fixed, and the only sustenance he received was conveyed through a fissure, caused by the accidental fracture of his front teeth. He lived to the age of sixty-seven, but, for some time previous to his decease, had nearly lost all powers of loco-motion. He was charitably supported by the Aldworth family. When dissected he was found, to use the strong language of Dr. Smith, " to be one entire bone, from the top of his head to his knees." In more perspicuous terms we are told, that

With our notice of the above village, terminate our topographical inquiries on the northern side of the Blackwater. We now return to such parts of the country as lie to the south of that river.

MACROMP (pronounced *Macroom*) is an inland market-town, rather considerable in size, at the distance of eighteen miles from Cork, towards the west. The mail-coach road, between Cork and Killarney, runs through this town, and a large inn has been erected here, within the last few years, for the accommodation of travellers.

This place is said to take its name from a celebrated *crooked oak*, which formerly grew here; and those who are fond of investigating etymologies will not fail to observe that there are, in the vicinity of the town, several vestiges of monuments, appearing to have been erected in ages during which the oak was an object of religious sanctity.

A castle was built here, soon after the English obtained ascendancy in Ireland; but this place appears to have been viewed merely as a military fastness, for several centuries following that event; and we are not aware that its fortunes were at any time augmented, or its celebrity advanced, by a religious foundation.

Macromp is seated on the small river Sullane, which is here crossed by a stone bridge. The Lany unites with the Sullane, at a short distance from the town, and the conjoined streams shortly afterwards fall into the river Lee. The buildings of this town have experienced some improvement in recent years, and there are now several neat and good houses. This, however, is

the skeleton exhibits "scarce one bone of the natural form, except those of the legs, which are not much distorted." So great was the tendency of nature to ossification, that, "when he was dissected, a bone was found in the fleshy part of his arm, quite disengaged from any other bone." All the cartilages of his breast, four only excepted, which served to move his breast in respiration, were turned to bone; and the vertebrae of the back were one continued bone. An engraving of the skeleton is given in Smith's History of Cork.

a place of but little trade, and it has no staple manufacture. One of the county sessions is held here, and the court house is an eligible fabric. Here is also a bridewell.

The *parish Church* is a spacious and venerable building, but of no great architectural interest, nor does it contain any monumental inscription entitled to notice. The Roman Catholic Chapel is also large, and is attended by very numerous congregations.

The *Castle of Macrump* is boldly situated on an acclivity that overhangs the river Sullane, at the west part of the town, in the vicinity of the bridge. It is believed that this fortress was originally built in the reign of John, either by the Carews or Daltons. Falling to decay in the sixteenth century, it was repaired by Tiede Mac Carty, father of Sir Cormac Mac Tiede, Lord Muskerry. Whilst it constituted a principal fastness in this part of Ireland, it was captured (A. D. 1602) by Sir Charles Wilmot, in consequence of a fire accidentally communicated by the assailants, after a siege of long continuance. It was again partly destroyed by fire, in the wars of 1641; after sustaining which injury it was repaired, and rendered habitable, by the Earls of Clancarty. The large possessions of that family in this district were forfeited in the year 1690; and the town of Macrump is now the joint property of Lord Bandon and Robert Hedges Eyre, Esq. The castle is the seat of the last-named gentleman, and forms a desirable residence, whilst it presents a fine and impressive object, greatly ornamental to the dependent town. The demesne is adorned with wood, of antient growth.

It is said, by the historian Smith, that Admiral Sir William Penn was born in this castle. But such an assertion is decidedly erroneous. Sir William lies buried in Redcliffe Church, Bristol; and in his epitaph it is expressly stated, that he was *born in that city*.

The country, in the vicinity of Macrump, is by no means of an inviting character, and the severity of the scenery is not ameliorated by many seats of gentry: At the distance of about half a mile from the town, to the north-west, is MOUNT MASSRY, a

respectable mansion belonging to the family of Massey; and, to the east of the town, is Coelsour, the residence of John Brown, Esq. The remains of several castles built by antient families, now extinct, or deprived of estate by forfeiture, add a mournful interest to the surrounding country. As an instance of the festive scenes which once prevailed in these ruinous piles, may be noticed an anecdote connected with the *castle of Clodagh*, in this neighbourhood, a structure said to have been erected by the Mac Swineys. On the side of the high road, near this castle, was placed a stone, bearing an Irish inscription, to inform all passengers that they might repair to the residence of Mr. Edmund Mac Swiney for entertainment! When Smith wrote the History of Cork, this stone was still to be seen, but lying prostrate in a ditch adjacent to its former situation.

BALLYVOURNEY, or the town of the Beloved, is a village, distant about seven miles from Macrump, towards the west. It is seated on a hill, upon the borders of the river Sullane, and is entitled to notice only on account of a nunnery, founded here by St. Abhan, who died in the year 650, having appointed St. Gobnate first abbess of the nunnery. This remote village is situated in a wild and cheerless part of the country, having, towards the west, the range of mountains which divide this county from Kerry, and which have been aptly said to rise between the two districts like an immense wall. They are chiefly rocks, of a great height, worn into numberless furrows by the impetuous torrents of wintry seasons. The antient church of Ballyvourney having fallen to decay, the sum of 900*l.* has lately been granted by the board of first fruits, towards the erection of a new church. The former building was dedicated to St. Gobnate, who is annually commemorated here, on the 14th of February.

Many antient customs and habits prevail in this recluse part of the county, among which may be noticed that evident relic of rude Celtic ages, the regular pitched battle between sept or townships. Dr. Smith mentions "a small stone cross, distant about thirty yards from the west end of the old church," at which the image of St. Gobnate was exhibited, on Whit-Mondays, and on

the patron-days. "The devotees (which are only the more simple and ruder Irish) go round it on their knees, and repeat a certain number of prayers. Near this cross is a stone, fixed in the ground, and worn by the knees of those who come here in pilgrimage." Here is, likewise, a well, dedicated to St. Gobnate, and near it Dr. Smith saw a circle of stones, which he thought to have been the foundation of a round tower. But in this conjecture we believe that he was mistaken. Round these stones devotees have been also accustomed to proceed on their knees; and the custom was, probably, a vestige of pagan ages, unconsciously grafted on the stock of fanciful christian ceremonials.

Ballyvourney is the estate of the baronet family of Colthurst.

MILL-STREET is a small and mean village, distant from Macrump twelve miles, on the road leading to Killarney. At this place are barracks for infantry.*

* At Mill-street long lived, and recently died, a personage of a character too curious to be unnoticed in our work. This gentleman was head of the antient Irish family of O'Leary, and took pride in being one of the last of his countrymen, representing old families, who maintained the antient hospitable style of living. "He was known," writes Mr. Townsend, "only by the name of O'Leary. He lived in a small house, the lower part consisting of little more than a parlour and kitchen, the former of which, properly supplied with every article of good cheer, was open to every guest, and at every season; and, what will more surprise, this profusion was accompanied with perfect cleanliness and decorum. His cellar, well stocked with good liquors, never knew the protection of a lock and key; for, as he said himself, nobody had any occasion to steal what any one might have for asking. It derived security, however, from other causes; from deference to his sway, and respect for his person, both of which were universally felt and acknowledged, within the circle of his influence. He was, also, a justice of peace for the county. The appearance of O'Leary was always sufficient to maintain order in fairs and meetings, and to suppress any spirit of disturbance, without the aid of soldier or constable. He possessed, indeed, some admirable requisites for a maintainer of the peace; for he was a very athletic man, and always carried a long pole, of which the unruly knew him to be no churl. To these qualities, O'Leary added an inexhaustible fund of original humour

At a short distance from Mill-Street, towards the north-east, is the parish of CLONMENA, in which, according to Colgan, there was formerly a monastery for Augustinian Friars, founded by the family of O'Callaghan. Here was, also, a castle, ruined in the civil wars which commenced in 1641. Near this place, and connected with it in a passage of history, is the HILL OF KNOCKICLASHY, an object of some interest as the scene of a celebrated battle between the English under Roger Lord Broghill, and the Irish commanded by Lord Muskery, which was fought on the 26th of July, 1651.

The republican general Ireton then lay before Limerick, engaged in the siege of that city; and Muskery, alarmed at the

and good-natured cheerfulness, and, being very fond of the bottle himself, it was impossible to be long in his company sad or sober."

We may also mention in this place, on the authority of a manuscript communicated to the author of this work by the late Mr. Beauford, the following particulars, relating to another gentleman residing in this part of the county a few years back, who retained more of the dignity appertaining to the antient Irish chief than the convivial personage noticed above. His name was M'Carthy, and he was, in the language of our MS. titular king of Munster. He was descended from M'Carthy Mor, king or prince of this province; and had in his possession the crown, sceptre, and other regalia appertaining to his antient dignity and family. He possessed, likewise, a cup, said to be made from the cranium of an ancestor of Brien Boiromh, whom the M'Carthys had slain in battle. It was highly polished, and had a lid of silver. It was a custom, writes Mr. Beauford, among the old Irish, to decapitate their vanquished enemies, and also was a custom of the chiefs to form drinking-cups of their skulls, and to retain them as trophies. Numbers of such cups have been found under bogs, and several are still in possession of antient Irish families. Our readers will observe that we mention the above circumstances, entirely as extracts from the MS. of Mr. Beauford, which adds that many traces of antient manners may be discovered in this remote district. The very general name of the people is M'Carthy. They are not, however, distinguished by that name in their native country, but by the place of their residence, or some other adventitious circumstance. Thus, John M'Carthy does not bear that name among his neighbours, but is termed Long John, Short John, Black John, White John, &c.; or John of the Hill, John of the Glyn, &c.; the name of M'Carthy being borne by the chief alone. Beauford MSS. penes J. N. Brewer.

danger of the besieged place, advanced to its relief. Lord Broghill was dispatched by Ireton to intercept this expedition, and, on the second night of his absence from the camp, he discovered the fires of the enemy. Attacking their advanced guard, at midnight and in the midst of a furious storm, he compelled them to retire for some distance, and immediately encamped about five miles from their head-quarters. An account of the engagement which took place on the ensuing day, was preserved among the manuscripts at Lismore, in the hand-writing of Lord Broghill; and as this action was one of the most distinguished that occurred in the county of Cork, during the wars of the seventeenth century, we presume that an abridgement of this curious document cannot fail of being a desirable illustration to the topography of this neighbourhood.

At an early hour of the morning the English passed the river Blackwater, near Clonmene, and, directly after their landing, the events of the day commenced with the declaration of a prophecy in their favour! "We here met," writes Lord Broghill, "with ninety Irish, who were under protection. I asked them what they were assembled for? They answered, they came out of curiosity to see the battle. Having asked them how they knew there was to be a battle? they answered, they had a prophecy that there was one to be fought on that ground, one time or other, and they knew none more likely than the present. Upon which I again asked them, on what side the victory was to fall? They shook their heads, and said, the English are to get the day."*

* This story has been often repeated, but never with the comment which we think it deserves. Considering the inventive genius of the future author of *Parthenissa*, and the love and practice of stratagem which he successfully displayed in a more important operation of this busy day, we have no hesitation in believing that Lord Broghill fabricated these questions and answers, and proclaimed them among his soldiery, with the view of exciting a vehement confidence on the basis of superstition. Several prophecies, not dissimilar in character with the above, are current in the fugitive history of Ireland. Thus, it is said by Moryson, in regard to the battle before Kinsale, in which Tirone was defeated by Lord Mountjoy, that "an old written book was shewed to the Lord Deputy, wherein was a prophecy, naming the ford and the hill where this battle was given, and

There was, at that time, much woodland in the vicinity of the field of battle, and Lord Broghill, by a skilful movement, drew the enemy from the wood in which they had taken shelter, and enticed them to the plain. He ordered that each wing of horse should consist of five squadrons, three to charge and two to second. The foot were also placed in five battalions, two of which acted as reserve. As the enemy outflanked him both ways, he drew to the right with his right wing, "upon which the enemy advanced that way with 1,000 musketeers, and with their horse fought horse-head to horse-head, hacking with their swords." After an obstinate contest he routed their left wing. A body of the enemy then appearing on his rear, he faced about, and charged through them. Then charging a second time, he practised a device which must needs be termed ingenious, and be applauded, as it greatly assisted in obtaining for him the victory. When commencing this second charge, he caused his men to exclaim, "*they run, they run!*" On hearing this exclamation, the first rank of the enemy looked back; to see if their friends in the rear were actually running away. The troops in the rear, *seeing the faces* of the front rank, thought that *they* were the men who had turned their backs; and, seized with a panic, began to run "in good earnest," so that, in fact, the whole of that division fled together!

One thousand Irish pikemen still "stood firmly, and fought stoutly;" but Lord Broghill "ordering their angles to be attacked; they were put into disorder and broken (their strength consisting in preserving their order and disposition), upon which most of them were cut to pieces." The fugitives were pursued until nightfall, with great slaughter. The sun had shone brightly at the commencement of this sanguinary day, but (as was the case at the battle of Naseby) the weather afterwards altered, and the work of destruction was performed amidst thunder, lightning, and a deluge of rain. On the side of the English it had been resolved not to give or take quarter; but we are happy to have the opportunity

foretelling a great overthrow to befall the Irish in that place." But who ever saw such a book, either before or after the assumed inspection of it by Lord Mountjoy?

of saying, that, after the heat of the action, several of the enemy were spared.* In consequence of this victory, Limerick at length surrendered to Ireton.

At the distance of about seven reputed miles from the village of Inchegeela, towards the south-west, is the head of the river Lee, surrounded with circumstances of so much peculiarity and interest, that this spot is well entitled to a visit from travellers, possessing a taste for nature in the rude grandeur of solitary retreats, where all remains her own, except faint traces effected by the hand of superstition. The source of this river is found in a spring, which issues from the base of a high, acclivitous, and rocky mountain. The water, repelled by an eminence not far from its source, forms a small lake, known by the name of *Gougaun Barra*. This appellation signifies *the hermitage of Barr, or St. Finbar*; and that saint is said to have lived here, a recluse, before he founded the cathedral of Cork. The place, indeed, is such as "musing meditation most affects." It is enclosed by steep and rocky mountains, down whose sides are several falls of water. In the centre of the lake is a small island, connected with the shore by a narrow causeway, appearing to be artificial. Some few trees, on this island, wrap in greater mystery and shade the relics of rude and humble buildings, popularly ascribed to St. Finbar, but which are, in reality, of a much more recent construction. They consist chiefly of a circular wall, of great thickness, in which are worked nine arched recesses, each of which has a plain stone, designed

* Among the plunder gained on this occasion, Lord Broghill mentions "a peckfull of charms, relics, &c. found in the baggage, besides an infinite quantity taken from the dead, with a peculiar one on paper, said to be the exact measure of our lady's foot, and written in it, "Whoever wears this, and repeats certain prayers, shall be free from gun-shot, sword, and pike, respectively, as each desired."—Glancing at his personal danger in the conflict, he observes that "his boldest horse being twice wounded, became so fearful that he was turned to the coach." By which expression we learn that a commander in the seventeenth century, even when at the head of a detachment, and on service of haste and exigency, had his carriage in attendance.

for an altar, and each is dedicated to its particular saint. In the centre of the circular enclosure are the remains of a wooden cross, on which are nailed numerous shreds and patches, the grateful memorials of cures effected by a pilgrimage to this holy place!

On the outer side of the circle are some traces of a small habitation, occupied, in the early part of the eighteenth century, by a melancholy devotee, named O'Mahony, who dwelt here, in solitude, for eight and twenty years.* Whilst contemplating this solemn but beautiful retreat, and recollecting the awful charms of Glendalough, and many other unworldly recesses in different parts of the island, it is impossible to avoid a conviction that the character of Irish scenery has had considerable effect in nurturing a gloomy and ascetic view of religious aspirations, throughout many ages which have assumed a brighter and more philosophic complexion, in countries uniformly favourable to the bustle of commerce.

A very large and celebrated *Patron* is held here, on the 24th of June, St. John's day. Numerous tents are then erected, and the usual scenes of mingled revelry and enthusiasm are exhibited, to the outrage of good manners and the shame of human reason. These meetings are now, very judiciously, discountenanced by the Roman catholic clergy.

After forming the small lake termed Gougann Barra, the waters at the head of the river Lee pass the rocky impediment before noticed, and, having proceeded for some distance through a narrow channel, expand into a lucid sheet, more than three miles in length, and, in some places, nearly one mile in width, termed Lough Allua. This Lough is dotted with several islands, and the shores want no essential of the picturesque, but wood.

A district now requires attention which presents few towns, or ornamental buildings, for topographical investigation, but which

* O'Mahony lies buried under an arched recess, on the shore of the lake. The historian Smith says that he there saw the following inscription, which, however, is not now to be discovered: "Hoc sibi et successoribus suis in eadem vocatione, monumentum imposuit dominus Doctor Dyonisius O'Mahony, presbyter licet indignus." An. Dom. 1700. Dr. Smith adds that O'Mahony was buried in the year 1728.

possesses, in a very eminent degree, the attraction of bold and magnificent natural scenery. This is the **BARONY OF BEAR AND BANTRY**, situated at the south-western extremity of the county, and enjoying a fine and extensive line of sea-coast.

The greater part of the tract so termed was formerly the territory of the O'Sullivans, or Q'Sulleavans, who were distinguished, from the locality of their respective possessions, into the names of O'Sullivan Bear, or Beare (pronounced *Bere*) and O'Sullivan Bantry. This sept were persevering opponents of the English interest; and their ancient animosity was called into active exercise by the change in religion proposed by King Henry VIII. They took a zealous part in the great rebellion of Munster, towards the close of Elizabeth's reign; and, in the ruin consequent on a failure of their views, some of the principal members of the family sought refuge in Spain, with which country they had been long in correspondence. There, several of this ancient Irish family have attained considerable eminence, and one (a descendant of O'Sullivan Bear) is said to be ennobled, by the title of Bearhaven. The principal descendants of the O'Sullivans of Bear and Bantry, now living in Ireland, dwell on the Kerry side of the mountains which form the western limits of this county. We believe that Sir Charles Sullivan, a baronet of Great Britain, is representative of the eldest branch of the family.*

The prevailing character of this barony is that of rocky mountains, alleviated by one fine and extensive tract of wood, and

* In Mr. Weld's "Illustrations of Killarney," are some particulars concerning the O'Sullivan family, chiefly derived from information furnished by Mr. Beltz, of the Herald's College. In the 12th of Elizabeth, Sir Owen O'Sullivan, in order to substantiate the title to his estates, surrendered them to the crown, and received a formal grant thereof, by patent. But the nephew of Sir Owen (Donel M'Donel O'Sullivan) instituted against him a suit at law, and endeavoured to prove that his uncle had usurped the possession, at the death of his (Donel's) father. Sir Owen, in defence, pleaded that the estates had fallen to him by the *law of Tanistry*. A commission was issued under the great seal, for the adjustment of this dispute; and the castle and dependencies of Bear were finally allotted to Donel, and Bantry to Sir Owen. The castle of Ardea and its

blended with the most pleasing exhibition of marine scenery,—that formed by bays of a noble expanse, or prodigious indentations on the line of coast, that seem to give to this exalted region a world of waters peculiarly its own. Wildness and grandeur are the leading characteristics: the ameliorating touches in which nature smiles are few; and more frequently the effect of real grandeur is advanced, and forced upon the consideration, by the blank aspect of surrounding sterility. Salvator Rosa might here have enjoyed a perpetual banquet, and could not have failed to produce chilling portraitures of various defiles, and select combinations; but the prevailing displays of scenery depend so much, for a due fulness of impression, on the majesty of their vastness, that it would be difficult to name the painter who would have been likely so to express himself on the canvass, as to ensure a sympathy with his conceptions, and with the ardour of his just admiration. It may, indeed, be truly said, that many of these views are beyond the reach of the pencil, and others not adapted to its powers.

THE BAY OF BANTRY, and its adjacent scenery, form the objects of greatest interest in this romantic barony. The bay is about twenty-five miles in length, or, from its most eastern point to the ocean; and varies in width between six and eight miles. It contains several islands, two of which are considerable in size. *Bear Island*, situated near the mouth of the bay, is bold and rocky, forming a shelter from the waves of the Atlantic. *The Island of*

dependencies, in Kerry, were, at the same time, awarded to Sir Philip O'Sullivan, younger brother of Sir Owen. We shall again mention this castle, in our notice of the county of Kerry.

Philip O'Sullivan, a native of Bear, was author of *Historia Catholica Hibernia Compendium*, published in 4to, 1621, and several other works. His Catholic history is said by Usher to abound in prejudices and misrepresentations; which we can readily believe, when we find that many pages are dedicated to an account of the "frightful sights seen in St. Patrick's Purgatory, by Ramon de Perillos, a nobleman of Spain." This Philip was one of the O'Sullivans who retired to Spain, where he became a naval captain, in the service of King Philip IV.—Vide Weld, Smith, and Ware's *Antiquities* by Harris.

Whiddy is of a tamer character, and has a rich and fertile soil, under cultivation. On the shores of the bay rise mountains, of great altitude and grandeur, among which the stupendous elevation termed *Hungry Hill* is conspicuous, equally for height and sublimity of character. It is very generally allowed that no *single view*, even among the various beauties of Killarney, equals this of Bantry. The extent of the prospect is not too great for the visual capacity, while it fills the mind with astonishment and admiration. The terms in which Mr. Townsend speaks of this view, are so peculiarly animated and appropriate, that they ought to be familiar with every spectator of the scene to which they refer.—“The effect produced by such an assemblage of objects can hardly be conceived, and is impossible to be described. The mind, filled and overborne by a prospect so various, so extended, and so sublime, sinks beneath its magnitude; and, feeling the utter incapability of adequate expression, rests upon the scene in silent and solemn admiration. The soul must be insensible indeed, which will not be moved, by such a contemplation, to adore the God of nature, from whom such mighty works proceed!”*

When the examiner quits the contemplation of this glorious view, as one magnificent scene, and has leisure to investigate the parts of which it is composed, he finds many subjects calculated to gratify his warmest expectations. Amidst such dazzling charms of the picturesque, it is difficult to proceed with topographical precision; but, as our object is not so much to express our own feelings of admiration, as to convey loco-descriptive information, we conduct the reader to the TOWN OF BANTRY, which, however, is of a humble character, and not entitled to a lengthened notice. This small sea-port enjoyed more prosperity in the early part of the last century, than at present, from the emoluments of a pilchard fishery in the bay; but that fish has long since deserted the coast, and the remote situation of the town debars it from the hope of becoming a place of general trade. It was, formerly, called

* Statistical Survey, vol. i. p. 385.

Balygobbin, and a monastery for conventual Franciscans was founded here by Dermot O'Sullivan Bear, who died in 1466; but no vestige of the buildings is now to be seen. To the north of the present town a fortification was erected by Ireton, which went to decay, after the restoration of comparative tranquillity. This town gives to the family of White the titles of earl, viscount, and baron, in the peerage of Ireland.

In the Bay of Bantry an engagement took place, on the 29th of April, 1689, between an English squadron, commanded by Admiral Herbert, and a French fleet; which action was not attended with any decisive consequences. The second hostile fleet of France that has visited this bay, made its appearance on the 24th of December, 1796. The elements had fought against the purpose of the intended invaders. Their fleet is said to have originally consisted of twenty-five ships of the line; but many were dispersed and disabled by storms. Seventeen sail anchored in the bay, ten of which were of the line. The general sailed in one of the ships separated from the main fleet; and, after remaining in the bay for some time, in expectation of his appearance, the French returned to Brest, without committing any act of aggression. A reconnoitring party, sent on shore directly after their arrival, were seized as prisoners. The inhabitants of the coast and its vicinity, under the incitement and direction of Mr. White, since created Earl of Bantry, evinced a determination to resist, in the most spirited manner, any hostile attempts made by this powerful armament.

The French had anchored, on this occasion, upon the north-west quarter of the Island of Whiddy; and on the higher parts of that island have since been constructed works, of some extent, for the defence of the bay.

The principal seat in this barony is SEACOURT, the mansion of Richard White, Earl of Bantry, situated near the town, on the south side of the bay. The house commands fine views of the bay, and the woods of Glengariffe, but still possesses the advantage of a sheltered situation. It is encompassed by a park, which

reaches to the edge of the water ; and his lordship has, also, a deer-park in the island of Whiddy. The ancestors of the noble owner of this estate entered Ireland during the wars in the middle years of the seventeenth century. We have already alluded to his zealous and patriotic conduct, when the French threatened the Irish coast, in 1796. He was created Baron of Bantry, so speedily after that transaction as March 31st, 1797. In the year 1800, he was advanced in the peerage, by the title of Viscount Bantry ; and in 1816, was created Earl of Bantry, and Viscount Bearhaven.

There are several agreeable seats on a fertile tract of land, at the head of the bay ; among which may be mentioned a residence finely situated, termed *the Cottage*, built a few years back by Simon White, Esq.

The seat best entitled to the notice of the topographer and traveller, is GLANGARIFFE (*the rough glen*), situated at the head of the small harbour of that name, on the north-west shore of the bay of Bantry. The house is a spacious modern fabric, that would, in itself, perhaps, claim little attention as a specimen of domestic architecture. The situation, and many circumstances of contiguous scenery, are beautiful beyond the powers of description. The mansion is nobly adorned by natural woods, and is placed on the immediate border of the harbour, from the sides of which rise craggy mountains, of greatly varied outline, but for the most part impressively grand. The shore of the harbour, in the vicinity of the house, is finely unequal, and is planted with arbutus, holly, birch, and other trees and shrubs, luxuriant in growth, and presenting a delightful variety of foliage and tints. The mountains which rear their heads above this sylvan scene, and on the opposite side of the harbour, are rocky solitudes, wild from the hand of nature ; and the effect of contrast is here exhibited with peculiar force.

It has been observed, that the scenery of Glangariffe gains a great accession of charms from the mildness of climate on this part of the coast. Myrtles, and other tender plants, in situations

screened from the north and east, here brave the winds of all seasons, with impunity; and deciduous trees remain bare of foliage only for a short part of the year. The woods of this glen wind through the mountains for an extent of several miles; and a river, of impetuous force when augmented by the rains of winter, rolls along its rocky bottom, and finds egress in the bay. From this brief outline of description, it will readily be imagined that the scenery is not more beautiful than it is diversified. The whole of the pages contained in this volume might, indeed, be occupied by a notice of the various glens and changes of prospect; and, from the noble materials of description,—rock, wood, softened dell, mountain torrent, and sea-view,—each literary delineation might afford the subject of a picture, distinct in its principal features, and complete in the components of beauty. This demesne, so rich in the magnificence of nature, is the residence of Simon White, Esq.

One road, leading from the vicinity of Bantry to the county of Kerry, is formed across mountains, bold, romantic, and often frightfully rugged and barren. In the wildest part of this alpine region is a well-known pass, termed, from some forgotten legend, the **PRINCE'S LEAP**.

Among the principal wonders and beauties of this strange tract of country, where all the works of nature are on a gigantic scale, must be noticed the water-fall and cataract of **HUNGRY HILL**. This hill, or rather mountain, is distant about 14 miles from Bantry, and the waters which form the descending body issue from a lake on its summit. The mountain is of a rocky and craggy character, and its side is extremely acclivitous. The fall of the water is usually said to be 2000 feet, but such an estimate is evidently a great exaggeration.* For the first part of its descent

* In ascribing this great depth of descent to the waterfall at Hungry Hill, all modern writers have given Dr. Smith as their authority. But it is rather curious that all have misconceived the statement of that writer. Smith merely says that Hungry Hill is "at least 700 yards *above the level*

(a distance not easily to be calculated, but certainly more than one third of the entire height) the side of the mountain is so steep, that the waters fall in one prodigious sheet, free from any obstruction whatever. They then find impediments in huge projecting knolls of rock, and pursue their course in all the beauties and terrors of the cataract. It will be obvious that the grandeur of this display is greatly increased by heavy falls of rain. In such seasons, the fall presents a noble object, even to spectators situated at Bantry, fourteen miles distant, or to those on board vessels approaching the town on the bosom of its expansive bay.

BEARHAVEN is situated near the mouth of the bay, but affords little to interest the traveller.

The village of CASTLETOWN, otherwise Castle-Dermot, is on the northern shore of the haven, opposite to the rocky and cheerless island of Bear. To the south-east of this village stood the CASTLE OF DUNBOY, celebrated as a fortress of great strength, and, also, of important locality, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, when many Irish chieftains of the southern coast were in the habit of political correspondence with Spain. It belonged to the O'Sullivans, and was, with their co-operation, manned by Spaniards, in the year 1602. After the surrender of Kinsale, Don Juan, the Spanish commander, gave orders for Dunboy also to be yielded to the English; but Daniel O'Sullivan, then proprietor of this castle, incensed at such an uncereemonious disposal of his property, surprised and disarmed the Spanish garrison, and prepared for defence against the English. In spite

of the Bay of Bantry." The ground to the base of that mountain is continually rising, from the margin of the bay; and Dr. Smith by no means asserts that the actual fall of water is down a declivity of 700 yards, or, as modern writers have said, in round figures, 2000 feet. From the want of objects to place in a scale of comparison, it is difficult, without actual measurement, to form an idea, bordering on correctness, respecting the real depth of this prodigious fall. Staubbach, in Berne, has been usually thought to present one of the most considerable falls in Europe. The estimated height over which the waters are there precipitated, is 1100 feet.

of great and threatening difficulties, for the fort was almost inaccessible, from the circumstances of its situation, Sir George Carew commanded an assault. The attack was so vigorous, that the upper part was taken by storm. The besieged still defended the lower chambers, with desperate obstinacy; and the governor, who had been appointed by O'Sullivan, after receiving a mortal wound, endeavoured, in his expiring moments, to fire the magazine, and thus involve both friend and foe in one general ruin. He was fortunately prevented from committing this act of barbarous violence, and the castle was demolished by the queen's forces.

The design of our work forbids us to indulge in the luxury of expatiating, with any resemblance of diffuseness, on tracts however eminent for natural beauty, if unconnected with marked passages of history, either national or local. In quitting reluctantly this district, we recommend to the visiter, more decidedly in search of the picturesque, a deliberate examination of Glengarriffe; and of the water-fall of Hungry-Hill, from several different points of observation. The unspeakable magnificence of the bay will unavoidably attract his repeated inspection; and we will venture to affirm that no repetition of this pleasure will cause the lustre of the comprehensive view to fade on the eye, through effect of familiarity. The august masses of rock which form headlands, and protect the numerous bays against the mighty waves of the Atlantic; the rocky mountains which line the shores of bays and harbours; and the wild solitudes of mountain scenery, between the northern shore of Bantry and the confines of Kerry; are fertile of delights for the mind accustomed to pictorial combinations, and productive of an exalted, if less refined, gratification for all who are sensible to the charms of nature; we may add of all who possess a simplicity of reverence for the great power in which nature originates.

In pursuing our topographical delineations of this county, we proceed to notice the remainder of such places as particularly demand the attention of the topographer and antiquary, between the Bay of Bantry on the west, and Tracton Abbey, near the

entrance of Cork Harbour, in an opposite direction. This extensive line of coast opposes to the raging waves of the Atlantic a barrier of rocks, various in height but often of great elevation, and presenting an endless diversity of forms. Several bays, and numerous coves are here seen. The promontories connected with these are sometimes awfully grand, and the whole scenery of the coast displays the unmitigated austerity of nature, unless an alleviation of threatening wildness can be found in occasional eccentricities of form, which cause surprise to mingle with a sense of the gloomy and terrific.

One of the principal bays on this tract of coast is that of *DUNMANUS*, which is separated from the bay of Bantry by a narrow but rugged peninsula. This is a large and safe harbour, but is little used. When viewed from several points of the shore, it assumes the appearance of a spacious lake, surrounded by mountains. At the head of the bay is an extensive vale, affording fine views towards the sea. On the eastern shore are the ruins of *Dunmanus Castle*, a fortress of some extent, erected by the Mahonys; and, more towards the interior of the bay, are the remains of *Dunbeacon*, a castle also formerly belonging to that sept.

The island of *CAPE CLEAR*, an object well known as a landmark for mariners, both outward and homeward bound, is the most southern point of the Irish coast. This island is about three miles long, and two broad. It is, in most parts, rocky towards the sea; and on the southern side presents a steep and inaccessible cliff. There are, however, some inlets which afford landing-places to small boats. The island constitutes one parish, and is supposed to contain about 1400 inhabitants, who reside in several small villages. Their cabins are of a mean description, and are covered with thatch, secured against the violence of the winds by interwoven ropes of straw, which hang over the eaves, and are rendered steady by weighty stones, affixed to their ends. Over the thatch of many of the cabins is spread old netting.

The isle is of an undulating surface, but much of the land is

capable of no other production than heath and short furze. No wood grows here, and the inhabitants are under the necessity of procuring fuel from the main land. The spade is used in husbandry; and barley, flax, and potatoes are the only articles raised. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in fishing, and they reap some advantages from a petty traffic with homeward-bound vessels, and from their services as pilots. They are a hardy race, and, although not generally of a stature superior to other men, several are eminent for height and strength. Mr. Townsend notices a person, known by the appellation of the strong man of the Cape, who was not less than seven feet high; and several families are distinguished, at the present time, for great size and strength. It will be readily supposed that the whole of the natives are Catholics. They have the reputation of being a simple, honest, and worthy people. As regards simplicity, it may be truly averred that their only luxury consists of an indulgence in spirituous liquors, and the delight of listening to old tales, whilst the "strength of the shell goes round," and the winter's fire affords a delightful contrast to the storms of the Atlantic.

These people seldom visit the main land, unless for purposes of barter. So attached are they to their sterile home, that they never quit it, even for a short time, without evident reluctance; and they view an expulsion from the island as the greatest of all possible calamities. Thus, the inhabitant of this sequestered region affords a striking illustration of the truth, as well as fine poetry, of Goldsmith's lines:

Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,
And dear that hill which lifts him to the storms;
And as a child, when scaring sounds molest,
Clings close and closer to the mother's breast;
So the loud torrent and the whirlwind's roar,
But bind him to his native mountains more.

This island is now the property of the Bether family, but it formerly belonged to the sept of O'Driscoll, who had a castle here, well suited, in character and situation, to the daring exploits of

that tribe in the fifteenth century. The ruins are seated on a lofty mass of rock, which overhangs the sea, at the south-western point of the island. It is approached in no other way than by a narrow path on a ledge of rock, about 30 feet in length. This rocky passage is high and steep on both sides, whilst the waters roar beneath on either hand. Towards the ocean, the rock on which the castle stands is quite precipitous. Even when the wind is quiet, the Atlantic is subject to a prodigious swell; and, in the calmest weather, its waves break against this rock with a violence that resounds along the shore to a great distance! In a work devoted to anecdote some traditional legends might be presented, respecting this fortress. The only *historical* circumstance with which we are acquainted, is its capture, by a force under Captain Harvey, on the 22nd of March, 1601; shortly after which date O'Driscoll submitted to Queen Elizabeth.

BALTIMORE, now a small and decayed fishing town, was, for several centuries, the property and principal settlement of the O'Driscolls, some of which sept were long notorious for the practice of piracy, to a most daring extent. The ruins of their castle at this place are still to be seen. An English plantation was effected here, in the reign of James I., under the direction of Sir Thomas Crook, who is said to have taken a lease of the town from Sir Fineen O'Driscoll. Sir Thomas procured a charter of incorporation, and the settlers erected sixty new houses. The death of Sir Thomas Crook, and subsequent disputes concerning his property in Baltimore, caused a suspension of these improvements; and a disaster, of a very memorable character, reduced the town to an abject depth of humility. The inhabitants, so long accustomed to aggressive acts of piracy, were doomed to experience a system of reprisal, quite unexpected. At dead midnight, on the 30th of June, 1631, the crews of two Algerine rovers landed here, and having plundered and fired the principal houses, carried away as prisoners a great number of the inhabitants, including 100 English. The Algerines were treacherously piloted into the harbour by a fisherman of Dungarvan, who was afterwards executed

for his crimes. Baltimore never recovered from the effects of this shock; but, in the midst of its misery, it retained the privilege of sending two members to parliament, until the reformation effected by the Union. The town, and much of the neighbouring rugged country, are now the property of Lord Carbery. Several very respectable branches of the O'Driscoll family still reside in this part of the county.

The Bay of Baltimore is free from any bar, or other dangerous impediment, but is little frequented. As a picturesque object it is very attractive, although the shores are completely destitute of wood. The waters of the bay are dotted with several islands; and, inland, is seen a mountainous tract, which finishes on the coast in a lofty promontory. In different degrees of distance are other promontories, of altitude still greater, including Mizen-head, the most southern point of Irish main-land. The sea might here afford an inexhaustible mine of wealth and plenty, if the fishery were under judicious management. The quantity of fish taken is sometimes so great, that, after the neighbouring district has been amply supplied, and considerable numbers have been dried and salted, a large remainder is used as manure.

The town of SKIBBEREEN is seated on the south side of the river Nen, which river takes its rise in the southern part of the county, and enters the Bay of Baltimore, at a short distance from this town. We are told, by Smith, that Skibbereen (formerly called Stapletown) was, antiently, a part of the domain attached to the castle of Gortnaclough, which fortress belonged to Mac Carty Reagh, and was demolished many ages back. The augmenting population of the neighbouring districts, and the new wants created by an improved state of civilization and increased habits of industry, have caused this remote town to advance considerably in trade and importance, within the last half century.* The old

* Mr. Weld, in his notice of Skibbereen, about twenty years back, observes, that "this place called to his recollection the old story of an Irish servant, who, being asked, on arriving in London, what he thought of that city, replied, that *London appeared a mighty good sort of a place, but was*

parts of the town (forming much the larger divisions) are miserable in the extreme, and exhibit a disgusting example of the small provincial towns of Ireland, whilst society was entirely confined to two classes, chiefly through the operation of an illiberal policy in the governing power. TRADE, the only solid remedy for the evils of a country, in which the great bulk of the population has long been degraded by inflictions thus severe, has led to the improvement of this place in every point of view, without the aid of parliamentary grant or family patronage. Here are bolting-mills, and breweries, on an extensive scale. A weekly market is well attended; and there are four annual fairs, at which large quantities of coarse linen and yarn are offered for sale, and much other business is transacted. The property of this town is chiefly vested in the families of Becher, Wright, and Townsend.

About three miles from the above town, towards the south-west, is a salt water lake, termed LOUGHKINE. This lake is nearly circular, and is not less than two miles in circumference. It is encompassed by hills, of varying height, which shut from sight the parent ocean; and the channel by which it is supplied is very narrow. Nearly in the centre of this natural basin is a small island, impressively graced with the ruins of a castle, formerly a romantic and secluded fastness of the O'Driscolls.

CASTLE-TOWNSEND, at a short distance from Skibbereen, towards the east, is a small but agreeable town, which has risen to its present state of respectability under the auspices of the Townsend family, who have here a handsome mansion and demesne. Here is a custom-house for the district of Baltimore, but the place has little trade, and is rather suited to retired residence than commercial pursuits.

This part of the coast affords many fine situations, and is *nothing at all to Skibbereen*: and, indeed, Skibbereen, in some respects, stands unparalleled; for we found whole streets in it formed of cabins without chimneys, situated at the bottom of a deep trench, or ditch." *Illustrations of Killarney*, p. 109

ornamented with several seats, the principal of which belong to the families of O'Donovan, Becher, Townsend, and Jervois. A tract more bold, various, and rich in marine views, can scarcely be imagined. To a mind prepared by its native energies, or by a cultivated taste for the sublime, this scenery will yield a fund of delight, almost inexhaustible. It may be worthy of remark, that the gloom and asperity of Dean Swift enjoyed a genial banquet in the awful grandeur of this region. We are told that he passed several months of the year 1723, at the house of a clergyman, in the parish of MYROS, and was particularly gratified by making little voyages along the coast, from Glandore harbour towards Baltimore. The mingled charms and terrors displayed to the voyager between those places, he has celebrated in a latin poem, of a lofty tone well-suited to the theme. It is entitled *Carberix Rupes*, and has been ably rendered into English by the Rev. Dr. Dunkin.

Myros is situated on the west side of Glandore harbour. At a place called *Carigiliky*, within the limits of this parish, are the foundations of a large building, with an adjacent cemetery, in which great quantities of human bones have been discovered. These traces of building are supposed to be the remains of the *Abbey of Maure*, or the Clear Spring, which was founded in the year 1172, by Dermot M'Cormac M'Carthy, prince of Desmond, who supplied it with Cistercian monks, from the abbey of Baltinglass. At the head of Glandore harbour is an antient seat of the Jervois family, and, on its west side, is a handsome villa, erected, a few years back, by the Rev. Arthur Herbert, rector of Myros. The demesne is finely circumstanced, and is greatly improved by plantations; but the scenery in the neighbourhood of the first-named seat is the most romantic and striking. In that vicinity is a terrific pass, termed *the Leap*, formed by a deep and dangerous glen, whose precipitous sides would appear to defy the ascent of human foot.

ROSS, or ROSSCABBERRY, is seated on a rocky eminence, near the northern extremity of a large bay. This place is said by Camden to have formerly possessed a harbour, but the tradition

on which that writer formed such an opinion would appear to be futile. The rocky elevation on which the town is situated is nearly surrounded with a strand, which has rather the appearance of having once formed a turf-bog than a harbour. The domestic buildings are, generally, of a character below mediocrity; a circumstance to be attributed to the nature of the property, as the town nominally belongs to Lord Carbery, but is merely held by his lordship under the see of Ross. In the centre is a square, of rather large dimensions, from the angles of which diverge four narrow streets. The greater part of the inhabitants are engaged in weaving; and much linen yarn is sold here. There are three annual fairs; and there is, likewise, a weekly market, held on the Wednesday. The bay yields large quantities of fish, chiefly haddock and bream.

Ross is the see of a bishop, and was, formerly, distinguished by a monastic foundation and a scholastic institution, of great celebrity. The ancient name was *Ross-Allihri*, the field of pilgrimage. The origin, or at least the early importance, of the town, is ascribed to St. Fachnan, one of those memorable scholars of the sixth century, who imparted to Ireland its best and greatest pride in antiquity, by rendering it the seat of learning in ages during which the neighbouring counties were plunged in mental darkness, and had no boast but that of triumphant bloodshed. This wise and upright man (as he is honourably designated by the writer of his life) was abbot of the monastery here, and is believed to have been also the first bishop of Ross. He was succeeded, as principal of the celebrated school in his monastery, by St. Conall; and it is asserted by Hanmer, quoting from some unknown but ancient writer, that St. Brendan taught the liberal arts in this school. The same writer, but likewise on a nameless authority, asserts that the town, which speedily increased around so distinguished a seminary, was encompassed with walls, by a lady of this country. He adds, that, in the wars which ensued between several Irish septs, and particularly in those between the Mac Carthys and O'Driscolls, the religious establishment and its town were nearly demolished. By a charter of King John, this town

was granted, under the name of *Rosselikir*, to Adam Roche, with all its appurtenances, save the demesne of the bishop.

The Monastery belonged to the order of St. Benedict. The ruins are situated near the cathedral, and consist of two side walls of the chapel, which exhibit marks of a rude and great antiquity. Near the east end of the north wall is a small and narrow window, the only light which the building received from its sides. On the south side is a round-headed door-way, formed of freestone, well squared, but destitute of architectural or sculptured ornaments. The stones of which the walls are composed are unhewn, but are imbedded in cement, composed of small stones, gravel, and lime. The inside appears to have been covered with a thick coat of plaister, formed of lime and gravel. The ruins stand upon a rocky eminence, a great part of which is washed by the tide.

The Cathedral has been altered at different periods, and is now of no great architectural interest, but is embosomed in trees, and constitutes an object agreeably picturesque. On the west is a tower, surmounted by a spire of hewn stone, 50 feet in height. This ornamental spire was recently added by Mr. Michael Shanahan, of Cork, under the direction of the dean and chapter.

In the vicinity of the cathedral are some *excavations*, believed to be of considerable extent, but which have never been thoroughly explored, and are now closed up. After lying hidden for unnumbered centuries, their existence was accidentally ascertained about the year 1747. We are informed by Mr. Townsend that in them "were discovered many small chambers, bearing evident marks of fire, and connected by narrow passages." A further account is afforded in Dr. Smith's history of this county.

The see of Ross has been united to that of Cork, from the date of 1583. The chapter consists of a dean; precentor; chancellor; treasurer; archdeacon; two rural deans; and five prebendaries.

Near the village of *NEWMILL*, in the vicinity of Ross, are the remains of a circle of upright stones, of which five are now standing.

There is no central stone, but, at a very short distance from the circle, is a cromlech, composed of a covering stone and three supporters. At the distance of about one hundred yards from the circle, is a single upright stone; and it may be remarked that the same situation of a single stone occurs at Stone-henge, and at Rollrich, in Oxfordshire.

At the distance of about one mile from Ross, towards the west, is the decayed mansion of BALLYVIREEN. This building presents a curious specimen of a style in domestic architecture not often seen in Ireland; that of the spacious and comfortable manor-house, erected in nearly all parts of England at the dawn of political security in the last half of the sixteenth century. It is said by Smith that the house of Ballyvireen was erected by Sir Walter Coppinger, who also designed to build a town here, but was prevented by the rebellion of 1641.

In the vicinity of the same town are several seats, in good preservation, and occupied by families of much respectability. Perhaps the most interesting of these is BANDUFF, the romantic seat of the Morris family. The house is placed upon a rock, which rises from a small and picturesque valley. Attached to the present dwelling stands the antient castle of Banduff, formerly a strong hold of the O'Donovans. The family of Morris has been seated here through several descents. It may be noticed as a trifling, but curious circumstance, that in the ground connected with this residence is to be seen a rookery, formed in a grove of laurels.

Among the modern seats is conspicuous that at DERRY, which was recently built by the Rev. Horatio Townsend, author of the Statistical Survey of the county of Cork, and now constitutes his residence.

CASTLE FREKE, the seat of John Evans Freke, Lord Carbery, is at a short distance from Ross, towards the south-west, and occupies a bold situation, favourable to the display of the mansion

and to the attainment of extensive views, but peculiarly open to the rage of the winds, which sometimes sweep over the neighbouring sea with great violence. This place was formerly called *Rath Barry*, from an antient castle of the Barry family. The antient building on the demesne enjoyed a sheltered, yet picturesque, situation, and was enriched by a fine contiguous wood of aged oak. The site, indeed, would appear to have been unusually well suited to a castellated residence, and it is to be regretted that Lord Carbery, when he commenced a new house, about thirty years ago, had not preserved the antient site for his fresh structure. The house which he first erected, on the present elevated and exposed spot, was convenient as to interior arrangement, but without any pretensions to external beauty. This building his lordship has enlarged, within the last fifteen years, and has bestowed on the whole an exterior, imitative of castellation, after the designs of Mr. Morrison. The alterations were not completed when we inspected Castle Freke; but such parts as were finished had great splendour of effect, and this mansion, when the designs are entirely carried into execution, will, probably, rank among the finest buildings of its class in Ireland.*

GLOSHNAKILTY is a town of some extent, at the head of a bay of that name. This place enjoys more trade than is usual with the inferior provincial towns of Ireland, and the buildings and general aspect wear a correspondent air of prosperity. At the weekly market, and three annual fairs, considerable quantities of linen yarn and coarse linens are purchased, by dealers from Bandon.

* It is recorded, in the Statistical Survey of this county, that "some antient silver coins were discovered, by labourers employed in levelling an enclosure at Castle Freke. They were wrapped in a small bag, probably of leather, which mouldered into dust on being taken up. Though the metal is not pure, they have suffered little injury from time, and retain their impressions very distinctly. Edmund and Adelstan (or Athelstan) are plainly legible on some of them." It has been supposed that these coins were brought hither by Anlaf, who is said to have fled into Ireland after his defeat by Athelstan, at Brunanburh, A. D. 934.

There is, also, much traffic in corn, for which branch of trade large storehouses are here erected. The harbour, which is distant from the town about one mile, is difficult of access, in consequence of a sand-bar at its mouth. The vessels employed by the traders of this place are small sloops, in which corn and slate are exported to Cork, and potatoes to Dublin. The chief imports are coal, rock-salt, and earthen-ware, from England. Many large lighters are employed in procuring sea-sand, which is readily purchased, as manure, by the inland farmers; and several quays have been built for the furtherance of this trade. The domestic buildings have been greatly improved in recent years, and many dwellings of the principal traders are now both spacious and handsome. The parish church is a neat building, but of dimensions too small for the congregations by which it is attended. The Roman Catholic chapel is a spacious structure, lately erected by general subscription. A court house and barrack complete the list of public buildings.

This town owes its foundation to the ennobled family of Boyle. A charter for its incorporation was procured, in the second of James I., by the first Earl of Cork. The corporation consists of a sovereign, burgesses, and freemen, who have power to hold a Court of Record, for the recovery of debts under the amount of 20*l.*, and a Session of the Peace, for the punishment of petty offences. It is mentioned by Smith, on the authority of MSS. left by Sir Richard Coxe, that, in the year 1642, two full companies of Lord Forbes's regiment were slain, by the Irish, in the streets of this town. The greater part of the town was, likewise, destroyed by fire, in the civil war of that period. The earl of Shannon is lord of this borough, and proprietor of the town and adjoining estates; the grandfather of the present earl having purchased the property of Lord Burlington. Before the Union, this place returned two members to parliament.*

* An extended statistical account of the union of Kilgeriff, in which the above town is situated, is given in the 2nd Vol. of Mr. Shaw Mason's Parochial Survey.

Cloghnakilty has received considerable advantages from the new line of mail-coach road, which runs through the town, and has already led to the improvement of several cross-roads in its vicinity. The country in this neighbourhood is hilly, with an intermixture of rock, often rising above the surface. The vales are watered by many nameless brooks, or rivulets. Numerous high and bold cliffs rise on the sea-coast, often productive of much romantic beauty.

On the lands of *Temple Brien*, at the distance of about one mile from Cloghnakilty, towards the north, are some remains of antiquity, which exhibit, in a very curious and decisive manner, the readiness with which the early teachers of christianity profited by the prevailing notions of sanctity, attached to Pagan temples and erections, in their endeavours to divert the superstition of an ignorant people into channels favourable to the reception of a more rational faith. In our notice of these vestiges we are indebted, for many particulars, to the investigations of Mr. Townsend, whose opportunities, and diligence of research, have enabled him to correct several errors in the accounts published by Smith and Ledwich.

The more antient and pagan parts of these remains consist of a circle of upright stones; a single pillar-stone, which had formerly four subordinate stones in its contiguity, one of which is still to be seen; and a cave, of considerable extent. These, with the exception of the stony circle, are now intermingled with the arrangements of a very old and decayed place of Christian worship; and the description will be more clear, if commenced with a notice of the ruined church.

The church at *Temple Brien* was, evidently, of very small dimensions, and, in the greater part, built without the use of lime, or other cement. It was placed in a small quadrangular inclosure; and, at the distance of a few paces from its northern side, stands a single pillar of stone, from fourteen to fifteen feet in length, nearly five feet being beneath the present surface of the ground. It is, according to a measurement made by Mr. Townsend, "about four feet in circumference, at the bottom, and tapers

gradually in rising, approaching almost to a point at the summit. The form is quadrilateral, but it has been rounded off at the angles, and there were formerly four stones, indented in such a manner as to fit exactly the four corners of the pillar. One of these is still remaining, and on one of its sides is the rude form of a cross, superadded by Christian piety."

Mr. Townsend considers it to be doubtful whether this stone were really erected by persons practising what is commonly called the Druidical form of religion, as it bears, in the rounding of its angles, evident marks of the tool. But it is well known that the tool was used in parts of Stonehenge, and was, indeed, frequently employed in works rationally attributed to the Belgæ, in the later and degenerated times of Druidism. In many instances the cross is seen rudely engraved upon pillars, which, from situation and character, were manifestly erected in pagan ages.

The quadrangular area, within which the church stands, is merely a central spot in a large oblong inclosure, containing about four acres. The whole of this inclosure was once surrounded by a wide ditch, of which some part is still remaining. "On the north side," observes Mr. Townsend, "is a cave, running from east to west, the sides being supported by walls, and covered over with coarse slates, or flags, which are so near the surface as to be sometimes disturbed by the plough. As far as one can see, it appears to be low and narrow. Human bones are often found within the area of this singular inclosure."

Distant from the church about four hundred yards, towards the south, is a circle of large stones, thirty feet in diameter. When the bishop of Clogher visited this spot, in 1743, the remaining stones of the circle were nine in number; but only six were left when Smith wrote his account of Cork, about 1748. No more than five now retain an upright position, besides a central stone, round and composed of white quartz, which is, at present, nearly hidden by a fence that divides the circle. The stones in the ring are dissimilar in size and form, but have uniformly a flat side towards the centre. It is observable that the

neighbouring country-people, who entertain much reverence for the ruined church, have no traditional respect for the vestiges of this circular temple.

TIMOLEAGUE, once a place of some consideration and repute, now reduced to the insignificance of a village, though still nominally a market town, is situated at the western extremity of a strand bordering on the harbour of Court-Mac-Sherry. The town is seated upon the river Arigadeen (the Silver Stream), which is navigable for small vessels as far as this place; but the advantages it would thus appear to possess for trading pursuits, are eclipsed by the contiguity of the two more eminent towns of Bandon and Cloghnakilty. It has, however, a neat and commodious church, completed in the year 1810.

The former eminence of this place chiefly proceeded from a religious foundation, whose ruins still exist, and are worthy of the traveller's attention. The Abbey of Timoleague has been attributed to various founders, but may be confidently ascribed, on the authority of a manuscript formerly repositied in its archives, to William Barry, lord of Ibaun, who died on the 17th of December, 1373. The establishment was one of the noblest in the county to which its buildings lent an ornament, and was founded for friars of the order of St. Francis. Provincial chapters of the order were held within its walls in 1536, and 1563; and several persons of distinction were here interred. It shared the common fate, at the date of the suppression in the reign of Henry VIII.; but was repaired in the year 1604, and restored, for a short time, to purposes of secluded piety, by some fervid adherents of the old religion.

These remains occupy a low, but lovely and peaceful station, on the banks of the silver stream, whose tide laves the antient but still firm walls. The buildings have been long since deprived of their roofing, but in other respects present a curious specimen of the arrangements that prevailed in a monastic structure. They comprise the principal walls of the Abbey-church, with an at-

tached cloister, and several apartments, including the refectory. In the choir of the church are the fragments of monuments erected to members of several antient families, among which have been noticed those of Mac Carty Reagh (placed near the centre of the choir;) the O'Cullanes; and the lords Courcey.

It appears from the obitnal book of this convent, as cited by Sir James Ware, that the steeple, dormitory, infirmary, and library were rebuilt, about the year 1500, by Edmund Courcey, bishop of Clogher, who had been a friar of this house, and was buried here in 1518. The choir is of an earlier date, and is in a respectable, but not elaborate or costly style of pointed architecture. The arches of the doors and windows are of brown freestone; and it has been observed that the place at which this stone was procured is probably far distant, it not being known that any similar stone exists in the neighbourhood.

It appears to be likely that the prosperity of this place was chiefly dependent on the fortunes of its Abbey; but that it was once a town of considerable notoriety is unquestionable. At the end of the village opposite to that enriched by the ruins of the monastery, are the vestiges of a castle, said to have been built by the sept of O'Shanghnessy. It is recorded by Smith that Timoleague was formerly much frequented by the Spaniards, who here found a ready market for large quantities of wine. He adds that there were, in those busy days, no less than fourteen taverns in this town, at which sack was sold. What fertile materials are afforded, by these details, for the retrospective fancy of a writer prone to people a ruined town and deserted strand with the tenants of a past day! What mingled scenes of ecclesiastical pomp and laical merriment. A stately abbey, with friars of the grey order, clothed in their gowns and cowls; a shore crowded with Spaniards, bearing the produce of a favourite vintage; and fourteen houses for the sale of sack!

In the neighbourhood of this town are several handsome seats of resident gentry, not the less estimable for being on a moderate scale.

KINSALE, (sometimes written *Kingsale*) distant fourteen miles from Cork, is seated at the head of a deep and commodious harbour, into which the river Bandon pours its waters. The first appearance of this town is of a character at once unusual and imposing. The buildings are placed on the quick ascent of a hill, which rises abruptly from the water, and, although not disposed in a manner greatly conducive to beauty of effect, are still, in a general view, interesting from their peculiarity, and in some parts their clustering altitude, of site. Many defects of arrangement, and much alloy of meanness, will be discovered on a closer inspection; but an air of other times, very grateful to the historical as well as the architectural antiquary, pervades many of the domestic buildings, and creates a pleasing thirst of curiosity concerning the annals of a town, evidently of long standing and former high repute.

Kinsale was, in several past centuries, the most celebrated port on the southern coast of Ireland; and, in consequence of such pre-eminence as a place of debarkation, it is connected with many events of national as well as local importance.

In the fourth year of King Richard II. (1380) some French and Spanish galleys, which had much infested the English coast, were driven for shelter to this harbour, and were here attacked and captured, with the loss of four hundred men, slain in the action. But the most important military operations, in which the Spaniards bore a part, took place in 1601. On the 23rd of September in that year, a strong force, under Don Juan d'Aquila, took possession of Kinsale, without any attempt at opposition on the part of the garrison, which consisted merely of one company. Here they were promptly besieged by the Lord Deputy Mountjoy, and the lord president, Sir George Carew. But the Irish advanced in considerable numbers, to the assistance of the invaders. Those from Leinster and Connaught were led by O'Donnel, and the insurgent forces of Ulster were commanded by Tirone. Drawing round the besieging army, they not only restrained its motions but threatened its destruction; and the consequences would probably have been fatal to the English

interest, had not the Spanish commander prevailed on Tirone to quit his favourable position, and hazard an engagement. This battle was fought between Kinsale and the village of Tisasson, on the 28th of December. A decisive victory was obtained by the Queen's forces; and the Spanish general, suspecting that he had been betrayed by his allies, surrendered the town through indignation rather than from necessity. The articles of capitulation, however, were not agreed upon until about the 2nd of January.

King James II. landed at Kinsale, on the 12th of March, 1689, having embarked at Brest, with the view of commencing a hopeless struggle for the possession of this kingdom.*

This town again experienced the horrors of a siege in 1690. It was at that time defended for James II, by Sir Edward Scot. The investment lasted for twenty-four days in the month of October, the assailants being commanded by the Earl of Marlborough and Prince of Wirtemberg. The defence was gallantly conducted, and the garrison, consisting of about 1200 men, was allowed to march out with arms and baggage.

* It is noticed by Mr. Walker, in "Historical Memoirs of the Irish Bards," that the friends of this unfortunate prince, who waited his arrival on the sea-shore, received him with the antient Irish dance termed the *Rinceadhfada*. The figure of this supposed national dance is thus described by Mr. Walker. "Three persons abreast, each holding the ends of a white handkerchief, first moved forward a few paces to slow music. The rest of the dancers followed two and two, a white handkerchief between each. Then the dance began. The music suddenly changing to brisk time, the dancers passed with a quick step under the handkerchiefs of the three in front; wheeled round in semi-circles; formed a variety of pleasing animating evolutions, interspersed at intervals with *entre chants*, or cuts; united and fell again into their original places behind, and paused." Mr. Walker thinks that "this was probably the dance of the Pagan Irish, during their festivals on the first of May;" and we are not disposed to contradict the possible accuracy of such a conjecture. It may, however, be remarked that a dance of this description is by no means peculiar to Ireland. The present writer has seen precisely the same figure danced at rural festivities, in the inland and secluded neighbourhood of his residence in Warwickshire.

The notoriety of Kinsale, as a favourite and much frequented port, caused it to receive, at an early period of the English ascendancy, the protection of embattled walls. But these do not appear to have ever been very formidable; and some surprise has been justly expressed, at the facility with which a Spanish force retained possession of the place for more than three months, in the year 1601. This circumstance can only be attributed to the assistance rendered by the armies under Tirone and O'Donnel, which kept the nominal besiegers on the defensive. The appearance of this town, early in the reign of Elizabeth, is curiously recorded by a passage in the Sidney papers. Sir Henry Sidney was here for three days, during a progress made by him in that reign; and, in a letter to the lords of the council, he states that the town was in a miserable condition. "A castle," writes Sir Henry, "which they had upon their peere, is all ruined, and the peere itselfe greatly decayed." In regard to natural capacities of defence, he adds that "the old Head, six miles distant beyond the town, is one of the *forticablest places* that he ever came in." The walls on the land side of the town were destroyed by order of government, shortly after the surrender of the place to the arms of William III.

The town of Kinsale is considerable in point of size, and many modern houses are agreeably placed, and of a commodious description; but numerous inconveniences arise from that mode of disposal which we have mentioned as affording an attractive and imposing effect, when the town is first viewed by the voyager entering its harbour. The acclivitous character of the hill on whose side it is placed, causes the communications between the principal lines of building to be unpleasantly, if not dangerously, steep. In common with those of other antient towns, the streets are extremely narrow, and much the greater number of the buildings are below a mediocrity of character. Many of the houses, however, as we have already suggested, evince an antiquity and peculiarity of architectural design, that will not fail to console the curious examiner for the difficulties he must encounter in perambulating the ascending ranges of contracted streets. These vestiges

of the antient town have large bay windows, connected in the upper stories by balconies; a fashion probably borrowed from the Spaniards, in ages during which Spain was absurdly considered as the best friend and ally of the old residents in this part of Ireland.

In the parish Church, a spacious and respectable building, were buried several of the Southwell family, ancestors to Lord de Clifford. There were two monastic foundations in this town, namely a priory of regular canons, and a house for Carmelites, or White Friars; but the founders and history of both are equally unknown.

The Barracks were recently erected, and are on an extensive scale. But, after noticing this military structure, there are few public institutions that demand attention. An Hospital, for eight poor men, was founded and endowed by the Southwell family, a branch of which settled here in the early part of the seventeenth century, and arrived at considerable distinction. Robert Southwell, Esq. eminent for his loyalty to King Charles I. was rewarded after the restoration with a grant of lands in the liberty of Kinsale, being part of the forfeited estates of Philip Barry Oge, and James Melliphont. A school was also founded by the same family, with the aid of a subscription from the corporation; and this establishment has been lately renovated, with equal spirit and success.

The superior advantages of Cork prevent Kinsale from attaining any great commercial eminence. This was formerly an important naval depôt, but the stores have been for some time removed to Cork harbour, now the resort for ships of war. The coasting business and fishing, together with breweries on a large scale, form the chief trading pursuits of the inhabitants. A source of profit is drawn from a circumstance that greatly adds to the gaiety and attractions of this town. In the summer season it is much frequented as a watering place; and hot and cold salt water baths, together with other suitable establishments, have been formed for the accommodation of visitors.

Kinsale, and a small adjacent tract of country, constitute a

separate district in themselves. The town and liberties occupy an extent of about three miles square, and pay to the county rate, but are not liable to any baronial tax. The corporation consists of a sovereign ; recorder ; burgesses ; and an unlimited number of freemen. It sends one member to the imperial parliament, and gives the title of Baron to the family of De Courcy, descended from Sir John de Courcy, Earl of Ulster. Lord Kinsale is premier baron of Ireland, and enjoys the hereditary privilege of wearing his hat in the royal presence. This peculiar indulgence was granted to his ancestor, the Earl of Ulster, by King John, in consequence, as is said, of his gallantry in entering the lists as champion in a dispute between that king and Philip Augustus of France, concerning their respective titles to the duchy of Normandy. His lordship has a residence in the town from which he derives his title.

The harbour of Kinsale, although inferior in extent to that of Cork, is capacious, and sufficiently deep for the reception of large ships. It is defended by a fortification, situated on its eastern side, which was erected in the reign of Charles II. The first stone of this fortress was laid by Roger Earl of Orrery, and an occasional inspection of the works afforded employment and amusement to the last years of that nobleman. The old fort of Kinsale, which formed a defensible post when the town underwent the sieges already noticed, stood on the western side of the harbour, but on a spot less eligible than the present.

The fishery at this place is conducted with great alacrity and success. The boats employed in this service are termed *Hookers*, a species of vessel nearly peculiar to the southern coast of Ireland, on which coast it is used for purposes of pleasure, as well as in the fisheries. The booker is built without a deck, and rigged with one mast only, which is placed very forward, and carries a large main-sail, with peak and boom. She has also a small fore-sail, and is provided with a bowsprit. These vessels are excellent sailers, and so extremely buoyant that they venture out in all weathers. They vary in size, but those employed at Kinsale are generally of about twenty tons burthen. The fishermen of this

port are an expert and daring race, and often render valuable services as pilots. By them not only the market of Kinsale, but that of Cork, is well supplied with cod, ling, hake, herringe, and several other kinds of fish.

To the south of Kinsale is a promontory, which runs far into the sea, and is known to mariners by the name of the **OLD HEAD OF KINSALE**. At the distance of about one mile from the extremity of this head-land, stood an antient castle of the lords Kinsale. We are told by Smith, that this place was formerly called *Duncearna*, and is in old records said to have once been "a royal seat of the kings of Ireland." The situation of this castle was fearfully exposed to the rage of the elements, and all surrounding circumstances partook of wildness and the terrific. The ceaseless working of the ocean penetrated the isthmus on which the castle was built, and gradually formed a stupendous arch, beneath which small boats may effect a passage. Among the rocks are found eyries of hawks, and the ospray, that large species often termed the sea eagle, forms its nest and breeds there. On this promontory is a light-house, for the safe guard of shipping.

The union of **TRACTON ABBEY** includes six parishes, lying on the west side of Cork harbour, and thus forms the termination of that line of coast along which we have conducted the reader, since our departure from the town of Bantry and the sublime scenery of its bay. This union derives its name from an Abbey, founded by the family of M'Carthy, in the year 1224, for monks of the Cistercian order, who were brought hither from the Abbey of Whitland, in Caermarthenshire. In the year 1375, King Edward III. took this religious house under his especial protection. The abbot was a lord of parliament, and the society attained great celebrity from possessing a reputed piece of the holy cross, which was presented to them by Barry Oge, and attracted hither great numbers of pilgrims. The more solid possessions of this house were granted by Queen Elizabeth to Henry Guilford and Sir

James Craig, and were afterwards assigned, by the person last named, to the first Earl of Cork. The buildings were long since levelled with the ground, and a church erected on a part of their site.* In the church-yard are still to be seen some remains of pillars ; corbel stones, carved with representations of the human face ; and other scattered fragments.

In this union are several tumuli, or raths. They usually occupy the most elevated ground ; and it is observed, in a statistical account of Tracton, by the Rev. W. A. Evanson, that a regular chain of them may be traced, forming a communication between the sea coast and the city of Cork.

Tracton Abbey gave, for a short period, the title of Baron to James Dennis, Esq. chief baron of the exchequer. The title was conferred in 1781, but became extinct on the decease of the first lord, in the following year.

The RIVER BANDON rises among the mountains near Dunmanway, in the south-west part of the county, and enters the sea at the harbour of Kinsale. It is characterised by Spencer as " The pleasant Bandon, crowned with many a wood ;" and the ornamental plantations on several parts of its borders still, in some measure, entitle it to these terms of commendation. The meanders of the river are gentle, until it has passed the town of Bandon ; it then makes several bold and beautiful reaches, striking to the

* The church of Tracton, although rebuilt not more than sixty years ago, is now, or was very recently, in a dilapidated condition. The neglected state of this structure will create the less surprise, when we mention the extent of the congregation by which it is usually attended. It may be premised that the Union of Tracton, *which combines six parishes*, reaches from east to west about ten Irish miles ; from north to south about nine Irish miles ; and contains about 14,590 English acres. We have no opportunity of ascertaining the number of inhabitants ; but, from intelligence contained in the third volume of Mr. S. Mason's Parochial Survey, we are enabled to say that the congregation attending this church, the sole protestant place of worship in so large a district, varies in different weeks between five and eighty persons ; the average attendance in seven years having amounted to *thirty persons each Sunday !*

south-east in its progress towards the ocean. The principal towns on this river are Bandon, Innishannon, and Danmanway. On different parts of its banks are many seats ; and near the town of Bandon the river flows through the park of Castle Bernard.

INNISHANNON is the first town on this river, after we leave Kinsale. This is a small but agreeable town, or rather village, very finely situated on the northern bank of the Bandon, whose waters are here of a considerable width, and are navigable for small vessels. According to Smith, this was formerly a walled town ; and the same historian records that the foundations of several castles, and other large buildings, have been here discovered. It is mentioned by Cox, that the town and its ferry were granted, by letters patent, to Philip de Barry, in the first of King Henry V. Whatever may have been the antient importance of this place, it had sunk entirely to the character of a decayed village in the middle of the eighteenth century, at which time its fortunes experienced a revival under the auspices of the late Thomas Adderley, Esq. who introduced the linen manufacture, erected houses for the persons engaged in that pursuit, and laid out a bleach-green. The river affords excellent water for bleaching, which business is still successfully carried on, together with a manufactory of calico and dimity.

Here is a Charter-school for boys, erected under the notice of Mr. Adderley, who presented the site on which it stands, and gave the sum of 200*l.* towards the expense of the buildings. The town contains several good private dwellings, inhabited by families of great respectability.

The banks of the river in the vicinity of this town are extremely beautiful, and are much enriched by villas and plantations. Among the principal mansions must be mentioned that of the Herrick family, who have been seated here for nearly a century.

The borough and market town of **BANDON**, or **BANDON-BRIDGE**, is situated on the north and south sides of the river from which it

derives its name, at the distance of about thirteen miles from the city of Cork.

This town is entirely indebted for its origin to the busy and enterprising spirit of Richard, first Earl of Cork. By that nobleman, whose fortune it was to exhibit to posterity the instance of a prodigy in successful adventure, the site of Bandon was found a waste; and he lived to see the walls of his new town afford a protection to all who espoused his party throughout the surrounding country. Kinalmeaky, in which this town is situated, formerly constituted a part of Carbery, and as such was forfeited by O'Mahony, in the rebellion instigated by the Earl of Desmond. Queen Elizabeth granted a seignior (nominally 12,000 acres) in this forfeited district to Fane Becher, Esq.; of whom the larger part was purchased, about the year 1602, by the "great" earl abovementioned, who was then simply Mr. Richard Boyle. The quick and experienced eye of that able man of business, readily discovered the natural advantages of the spot on which the town now stands; and, about the year 1608, he commenced the buildings, on a site and plan selected and formed with considerable judgment.

In the year 1611, he procured a charter of incorporation from James I.; the corporate privileges to extend over parts of the town on both sides of the river; and the body politic to consist of a provost; thirteen burgesses; and twelve common-council men. In 1623, the August assizes for the county at large were first held here; and, in 1632, we find the town complete in buildings, and wearing many indications of prosperity. It was then surrounded by fortified walls; was well provided with accommodations for traders; and had two sessions-houses, two market-houses, and two churches.* The area enclosed by the town

* In a letter addressed to Mr. Secretary Cook, and dated April 13th, 1632, Lord Cork ventures to draw a parallel between this place and Londonderry; and in performing this task he presents the following remarks, which are useful and curious, as affording a topographical picture of Bandon, when it was fresh from the hand by which it was designed and perfected.

"All that are judicial, and have carefully viewed them both, and com-

walls was estimated to contain 27 acres ; and, in a description of the town by Sir Richard Cox, a distinguished native in the seventeenth century, it is said, " the streets were so placed that almost every house had a garden to it, which, being planted with trees, made it seem as if it was built in a wood."

The woollen manufacture was introduced at an early period ; but the distracted state of the times caused the new town to be long chiefly important as a walled place of retreat and defence ; whilst the system of religious proscription, which the founder had adopted, prevented the commerce of the inhabitants from extending beyond the pale of a party : for, in those evil days, even the adherents of government and the establishment could scarcely be viewed in any other light. We have seen, in the transcript of the " great" Earl's letter presented beneath, that " no popish recusant, or unconforming novelist, was permitted to live in this town." In the heat of party zeal, the legislative powers of Bandon went a step further than orthodoxy might be expected to proceed ; and, as guardians of the public morals intent on preserving the inhabitants from the contagion of a

pared every part of them together, do confidently affirm, that the circuit of my new town of Bandon-bridge is more in compass than that of Londonderry : that my walls are stronger, thicker, and higher than theirs, only they have a strong rampier within, that Bandon-bridge wanteth ; that there is no comparison between their ports and mine, there being in my town three, each of them containing 26 rooms ; the castles, with the turrets and flankers, being all platformed with lead, and prepared with ordnance, and the buildings of my town, both for the number of the houses, and goodness of building, far beyond theirs. In my town there is built a strong bridge over the river, two large session-houses, two market-houses, with two fair churches ; which churches are so filled every sabbath-day, with neat, orderly, and religious people, as it would comfort any good heart to see the change, and behold such assemblies ; no popish recusant, or unconforming novelist, being admitted to live in all the town. The place where Bandon-bridge is situated, is upon a great district of the country, and was, within the last 24 years, a mere waste bog and wood, serving for a retreat and harbour to wood-kernes, rebels, thieves, and wolves."—*Letter ut supra*, a copied in Smith's Cork, vol. i. p. 236.

bigoted or self-confident church, they caused the following inscription to be placed over the principal gate :

JEW, TURK, OR ATHEIST

MAY ENTER HERE;

BUT NOT A PAPIST.

The better sense and temper of a succeeding generation erased this disgraceful inscription, with the pity or contempt which it merited ; but the spirit in which the " great " Earl of Cork had made such rapid advances in the acquisition of fortune, pervaded the townspeople of Bandon down to a period somewhat too recent for their credit. Dr. Smith, writing about 1750, informs us, that, at the date of his work, " there was not in this town a popish inhabitant, nor would the townsmen suffer one to dwell in it, nor a piper to play in the place, that being the music used formerly by the Irish in their wars." They had, however, relaxed in their opposition to " unconforming novelists ; " for there were then in the town meeting-houses for dissenters and quakers.

Since the time of Dr. Smith, the inhabitants of all persuasions have become more commercial, enlightened, and liberal. The old town is at the present day chiefly peopled with protestants, but catholics are numerous in other parts ;* and a handsome chapel has lately been erected for them, by general subscription.

As a striking contrast in the spirit of the times, we cannot avoid opposing to the arbitrary feelings, or interested motives, with which the Earl of Cork legislated for his colony at this place, the enlarged and benevolent views of the founder of Fermoy, as noticed in a previous page.

It will be readily supposed that the town of Bandon, under the influence of the Earl of Cork and his family, acted a conspicuous part in the civil wars which began in 1641. Fortified towns were, indeed, necessary to a party avowing such direct and

* In the Appendix to Mr. Newenham's " View of Ireland," it is said that, in the year 1807, the Union of Bandon contained 511 houses inhabited by Protestants, and 2,305 inhabited by Roman Catholics.

unrelenting hostility to the antient possessors of estates and personal sway in Ireland, and, consequently, to the great bulk of population in nearly every division of the tormented country. Shortly after the commencement of these civil wars, Lord Kinalmeaky, second son of the Earl of Cork, was appointed governor of Bandon; and many inhabitants of Cloghnikilty, and other parts of the neighbouring country, fled hither for protection; there being, at that time, no other walled town on this side of the county, capable of a lasting defence. Among the persons thus sheltered, were above one thousand women and children. It is probable that the government of Lord Kinalmeaky was not very popular, even with these chosen townspeople, whose good order was so highly praised by his lordship's father; for we find that a very short time elapsed before "the journeymen and servants, who were then the chief strength of the town, being quite wearied out with continual watching and exercise, began to quit it by little and little," and left this place for Cork and Kinsale, where they were received as soldiers.

Lord Kinalmeaky had speedily an opportunity of trying the temper of his sword. In little more than three months after the commencement of the rebellion, an insurgent party, with Mac Carty Reagh at its head, appeared before Bandon, and the governor made a sally to oppose them, with 200 foot and 60 horse. After a short skirmish, in which the rebel power betrayed a great want of military skill, Mac Carty was routed, with the loss of 105 slain; of which number five were gentlemen of some note. Fourteen of the insurgents were taken prisoners, and promptly executed, by martial law, at the town-gate.*

* The Earl of Cork, in a letter to the Earl of Warwick, giving an account of this skirmish, mentions the number of slain on the part of the enemy, with the following terrific comment: "And now the boy has blooded himself upon them, I hope that God will so bless him and his majesty's forces, that as I now write but of the killing of an hundred, I shall shortly write of the killing of thousands." After such a sentiment has once appeared in print, it is desirable that it should be repeated by the historian and topographer, that it may be marked by renewed—by perpetuated execration. Instances of a temper, quite equally sanguinary, might rea-

In the year 1688, the people of Bandon rose upon, and disarmed, the garrison which was placed over them in favour of James II. In the confusion attendant on this measure, several of the soldiers were killed, and, as a punishment for their spirited conduct, the inhabitants were fined £1000. To prevent further danger to the party then possessing power, the walls of the town were razed to the ground, and they have not since been rebuilt.

Bandon is divided into two parishes, that on the south side of the river being termed *Ballymodan*, and that on the north *Kilbrogan*; each of which has a church. The north Church, termed Christ-church, is the more important of these structures, and is a spacious building, erected under the notice of the Earl of Cork. It is said by Smith that "an old Danish intrenchment" formerly occupied the site of this church. The following sepulchral inscription, near the east end of the interior, may be cited as a conspicuous instance of the bombastic :

" From the rude world's campaigns, the much admired
 Legard! to this dark garrison's retired.
 Legard! the darling soldier, *whose loud name*
Shall ever flourish in the book of fame.
 Whose fair example might alone depaint,
 What 'tis to be a military saint.
 True to his God, his prince, his friend, his word,
 Rare ornaments, but fit t' adorn the sword."

dily be adduced from the opposite party. A thirst after blood prevailed on both sides; and this studied barbarity of example, and vengeance of retaliation, instilled no fear, and produced no relinquishment of factious effort. How much is it to be regretted that no great and gallant spirit arose, to set a precedent of mercy and forbearance! Nature is not so degraded, but that, even in wars waged under the insulted name of religion, an example like this must needs have assuaged the fury of the human tempest, and have shown that generosity can win more than the sword has power to destroy. Such a remark, however, applies merely to men who were really misled by intemperance of party zeal. An appeal, on the score of forbearance, respecting those who made cool and interested calculations on the personal profit, and family advancement, to be derived from trading in slaughter, would be quite as futile as expatiating on the advantages of a philosophical poverty, to the assembled merchants of the Exchange.

Beneath lies the body of one Edward Legard, who was *lieutenant to a Captain Robert Hyliard*, and died, as appears from his epitaph, on the 6th of January, 1678.

In the south Church lies buried *Francis Bernard, Esq.*, ancestor to the Earl of Bandon, who was elected a representative of this town in parliament, August 27th, 1695. He was solicitor-general of Ireland, for Queen Anne, and was afterwards appointed a judge of the court of common pleas. He died June 29th, 1731 (not 1721, as is asserted in a modern peerage), aged 68.

A free-school was founded here by Richard, Earl of Cork, with a provision of 20*l.* *per annum* for a master, and 10*l.* *per annum* for an usher.

Bandon has very considerably increased in size within the last thirty years, and is now a large, respectable, and commercial town. We are told, by the author of the Statistical Survey of this county, that "the old town is the estate of the Duke of Devonshire, who possesses a considerable portion of the great property which formerly belonged to the earldom of Cork and Burlington. The east suburbs, called the Irish town, with an estate annexed, belong to the Earl of Shannon; and the Earls of Cork and Bandon possess that part which stands upon the west side."

Very judicious improvements have taken place in that part of the town which has descended to the Duke of Devonshire. Among these are a new court-house, in which county-sessions are held; and a commodious quay, on the south side of the river. Numerous dwelling-houses have also been lately erected in the same part of the town, several of which are large and handsome buildings, chiefly composed of freestone found in the neighbourhood.

We have observed that the woollen trade was introduced to this town at an early period. For the substance of the following intelligence, respecting the various branches of manufacture since added by the industrious habits of the people, we are indebted to a communication of George Allman, Esq. inserted in Mr. Townsend's Survey.—The linen manufacture is chiefly confined to tickens. Woolcombing, and the camblet and stuff trade, employ

many persons ; and the manufacture of blankets and coarse woollen cloth is carried on by a few. Blue dyeing is cultivated rather extensively ; and it should be remarked that blue is the favourite colour of the country-people in this district : they manufacture their own frize, and send it to the towns to be dyed. The cotton business is practised with much activity, and affords employment to several hundred persons.* There are, also, porter and beer breweries, on an extensive scale.

There are two weekly markets ; that held on the Saturday being one of the largest in this county : and three well-frequented fairs. Bandon returns one member to the imperial parliament, and gives the titles of earl, viscount, and baron in the Irish peerage to the family of Bernard. It also gives the title of baron of Bandon-bridge, in the same peerage, to the family of Boyle, Earl of Cork and Orrery.

The following persons of notoriety were natives of this town.

Sir Richard Cox was born at Bandon, on the 25th of March, 1650. He commenced life as an attorney, but was called to the bar in 1674, and resided at Cork for several years, in the practice of his profession. He engaged actively in the service of the Protestant cause, and was present at the battle of the Boyne. The peculiar adroitness with which he, on that occasion, detected

* The following particulars respecting a cotton-mill, erected here a few years back by Mr. Allman, are worthy of transcription, as affording a specimen of the ardour with which the inhabitants enter into undertakings connected with the prosecution of manufactures. This mill "is 134 feet long, 34 feet wide, and 50 feet high. There are five floors, all underlaid with sheet iron, to diminish the risk from fire. It is capable of containing 10,000 spinning spindles, with all the machinery necessary for supplying them with prepared cotton, by which thirty hundred pounds of it may be spun per week. The number of persons, necessary for attending the work, is from 250 to 300. The motion that sets them at work, is communicated by an iron wheel, of forty feet in diameter, so equally and admirably constructed, as to be set going by a moderate stream of water." *Townsend's Cork*, vol. i. p. 369.

the mis-statements of an officer from the opposite party, has been already noticed among our anecdotes respecting that celebrated battle. In 1690, he was advanced to the office of second justice of common pleas; and in 1691, was appointed governor of the county of Cork. In the following year he received the distinction of knighthood. In July, 1703, he was appointed lord chancellor of Ireland, and was soon after sworn one of the lords justices of this kingdom. In 1706, he was created a baronet by Queen Anne.

Amidst such violent party conflicts as prevailed in the time of Sir Richard Cox, a career of undeviating prosperity was scarcely to be expected. His enemies succeeded in ejecting him from offices of public trust, and, in November, 1715, he was called before the parliament of Ireland, to answer certain charges preferred against him. He passed this ordeal with honour, and spent the decline of his life in a studious retirement. Undoubtedly this was the happiest period of his life, except the early days of hope and anticipation, when the world was untried, and the animal spirits high. He died on the 3rd of May, 1733, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. For an account of his writings, which were chiefly historical or professional, and were not of distinguished excellence, we refer to a copious biographical account in *Ware's Writers of Ireland*, edited by Harris. The name of Sir Richard Cox again occurs in our notice of Dunmanway, in this county.

Nicholas Brady, D. D. was born at Bandon, about the year 1659. He passed his boyhood at Westminster school, and was afterwards elected a fellow of Christ Church, Oxford, but removed thence to Dublin, where he took his master's degree. His diploma for D. D. was presented to him by the Irish University. It is asserted that, in the year 1690, he rendered an important piece of service to his native town, by preserving it thrice from conflagration, through his influence with the general of King James. He received church preferment in Ireland; but, quitting his possessions and expectations in this country, he settled in England, where he became one of the chaplains to King William and Queen Mary, and afterwards to Queen Anne. He held, at his death, the livings

of Clapham and Richmond, both in the county of Surrey. He died on the 20th of May, 1726. Dr. Brady was author of six volumes of sermons, and a very indifferent translation of the *Æneid*. But he is best known for his version of the Psalms, in which work he was assisted by Tate.

The BARONY OF KINALMEAKY, in which district Bandon is situated, affords the title of viscount, in the peerage of Ireland, to the family of Boyle, Earl of Cork and Orrery. This part of the country was a wild and unprofitable extent of wood and bog, for several years after the commencement of the seventeenth century. We are told that, in 1602, the army marching from Cork to the siege of Dunboy, in Bearhaven, was unable to pass this tract of woodland and bog, and consequently pursued the circuitous rout of Kinsale. From a letter written by the first Earl of Cork, and partly transcribed in the note to a previous page, we find that, according to his lordship's statement, it was infested by wolves so lately as the year 1608.

Whilst we deprecate the illiberality of that nobleman, as regards his profession of religious opinions; and abhor the dreadful coolness with which he talked of the massacre of thousands, and trained his sons to execute that concerning which he talked; we wish to pay to his memory the tribute of unmixed praise for the skill and activity with which he improved the face of the country on his various great estates. Kinalmeaky is a hilly district, by no means eminent for goodness of soil. Large tracts of bog and moor land existed, only a few years back, in the immediate vicinity of Bandon, towards the west; and the character of nearly the whole barony, in times long subsequent to those in which the Earl of Cork boasted of the civility of his plantation, was rude and cheerless in the extreme. Still, he laid the foundation of every improvement; and we cannot but admire the energy with which he raised a considerable town, and planted a race of profitable tenantry, in a tract that wore the aspect of a desert when it first came into his possession; and which appeared to have scarcely any other recommendations, in the view of a

colonizer, than a fine river, and an eligible situation for the principal town.

Sir Lewis Boyle, on whom the title of Viscount Boyle, *of Kinalmeaky*, was first bestowed, is mentioned, in our copy of the inscriptions on the Boyle monument at Youghal, as second son of Richard, Earl of Cork. He was born on the 23rd of May, 1619. Whilst he was yet a child, namely, on the 28th of February, 1627, he was created by King Charles I. Baron of Bandonbridge and Viscount Boyle of Kinalmeaky. It has already been shown that he married the Lady Elizabeth, third daughter of William, Earl of Denbigh. The marriage took place in the royal chapel, in December, 1639. The king gave the bride in marriage, and the queen presented her with a jewel, valued at 1,500*l.* which "the king, with his own hands, put about her neck." By this lady he had no issue; and, after performing some slight services in the neighbourhood of Bandon, and other parts of this county, he was killed at the battle of Liscarrol, September 3rd, 1642, by a shot in the head.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Bandon, on the western side, is CASTLE BERNARD, the seat of the Earl of Bandon. On this demesne was formerly a residence of the O'Mahony family, termed *Castle Mahon*. The house was rebuilt, about the year 1715, by Francis Bernard, Esq., judge of the court of common pleas, ancestor of Lord Bandon, and one of the representatives in parliament of the neighbouring town. But a new, and more extensive, mansion has been recently erected by the present earl, at a short distance from the site of that building. The modern structure ranks amongst the finest houses in the county, and contains several rooms of very noble dimensions.

The park, and the pleasure-grounds attached to this superb residence, have charms beyond the reach of mere magnificence. The surface abounds in graceful inequalities, and the fine swells of land are adorned with extensive and rich spreads of wood. The river Bandon winds among these wooded hills, not in a single current, but divided into many branches, its bosom being

dotted with numerous islets. The pleasure-gardens are large, and abound in beautiful plants, many of which are of rare kinds.

At KIWNEIGH, or KINETH, on the northern bank of the river Bandon, between the town last named and Dunmanway, is a pillar tower, differing, in several very curious particulars, from buildings of its class to be seen in other parts of Ireland. It consists of six stories, each being eleven feet nine inches in height. The first story is a regular hexagon, each side measuring ten feet four inches; but above this basement story the tower is quite round. Its entire height is about seventy feet.

It is said by Dr. Smith, that, "in an ancient Irish MS. containing some annals of Munster, there is mention made of the building this tower of Kineth, about the year 1015, soon after the celebrated battle of Clontarf."* It is worthy of attention that such a story should prevail respecting a tower that differs, in an important feature of architectural character, from all other fabrics of the same class; but we believe that no antiquary, subsequent to the time of Smith, has been able to discover the MS. to which he alludes; and it is obvious that the degree of confidence to be

* Hist. of Cork, vol. ii. p. 416.—Dr. Smith cites the following passage from this MS. of an unknown date, which he is contented with merely terming antient. "Cian, or Kean, Mac Mollwoa, being married to the eldest daughter of Brian, late monarch of Ireland, set about conquering the kingdom from Donnel, the lawful heir, who was his brother-in-law. The second daughter of Brien was married to Donnel Duff Davern, who (says the history) marched, with 1,000 men, near this tower of Kineth, then building, and almost finished, by St. Mocholomog the patron thereof, and implored that saint's blessing, which he received. Cian being in pursuit of Donnel, came up to Kineth, with 3,000 men, suffered them to plunder it, and carry away the provisions of the workmen; for which he and his army were cursed by the saint, and coming up with Donnel, were overthrown by him, at a place called Ballingully, now Mogolin, six miles west of Cork." In the INTRODUCTION to this work, we have already observed that Dr. Smith, likewise, refers, concerning the supposed uses to which the round towers of Ireland were applied, to certain MSS. never seen since his time, and to which he does not assign any date.

placed on its authority must, in a great measure, depend upon the period at which it was written : a point of information on which Dr. Smith is entirely silent.

To the north of Kinneigh is the respectable seat termed **PALACE ANNE**, which has afforded, for upwards of a century, a commodious residence to a branch of the Bernard family.

Near the head of the river Bandon, and on the road to Bantry, is the small town of **DUNMANWAY**, seated on a level tract of ground, in the midst of lofty hills, many of which are of a rocky and rugged character. Much of the contiguous scenery is wild and severe ; but some relief is found in considerable extents of oak wood, which enrich many of the glens between the high and cheerless hills. Dunmanway was scarcely known beyond the limits of the river on which it stands, and the hills by which it is, in three directions, enclosed, before it was selected as a place of residence by Sir Richard Cox, towards the close of the eighteenth century. We have already presented a slight biographical sketch of this distinguished person, in our account of the eminent natives of Bandon. It appears that he first used this remote spot as a place of occasional retirement, about the year 1690 ; at which time he was appointed second justice of the common pleas, an official situation chosen by himself, because " it was one of little business, and would allow him to dedicate the greatest part of his time to his beloved study of history." The various high offices which he subsequently filled, prevented him, for many years, from enjoying so much literary ease as he had anticipated ; but he pursued, with characteristic vigour, the designs he had formed for the improvement of the recluse village that he had selected as a place of family residence.

From King William he obtained a patent for fairs and a market at Dunmanway, and was, evidently, intent on becoming the founder of a town, though, probably, without the hope of it ever attaining much commercial distinction, on account of the established trading importance of the neighbouring town of Bandon, and the scantiness of population in the surrounding country. We

have stated that he finally retired from offices of public trust in 1715. Much of his time, between that date and the year 1733, in which year he died, was passed at this place; and here, in the words of his biographer, Mr. Harris, he "divided his latter days between study, improvements, and acts of charity." The house in which he resided is described by Smith, writing about 1750, as being "pleasantly adorned with handsome avenues, and good plantations of fir, elm, lime, chesnut, and some beech;" for which enrichments the estate was entirely indebted to his fostering care.

The eldest son of Lord Justice Cox died before himself, and he was succeeded at this place by his grandson, Sir Richard, the second baronet of this family. By that gentleman a very spirited attempt was made to introduce the linen manufacture; and, under his auspices, the town rapidly augmented in population and prosperity. The accounts presented respecting the methods of encouragement to industry, adopted by this judicious patron of Dunmanway, are pleasing, and worthy of notice. Several premiums were given to the manufacturers, according to their different degrees of merit; and a good house, free of rent for twelve months, was allotted to the master who had in the past year made up the best and greatest quantity of linen. Over the door of this honorary dwelling was placed the following inscription:

DATUR DIGNIORI.

THIS HOUSE IS RENT-FREE, FOR THE SUPERIOR INDUSTRY OF
THE POSSESSOR.

The board, we are told, was annually removed, with great pomp and solemnity, being called the Table of Honour. In May, 1749, the houses were 117 in number, and contained 807 inhabitants, 405 of whom were protestants, and 402 Roman catholics. In these houses there were 226 flax wheels, and 28 woollen wheels, besides those of the spinning school. The 1st of May was annually celebrated as a day of review and festivity, at which time the whole of the wheels underwent an examination. On this occasion, distinguished young ladies of the neighbourhood

held forth the excitement of publicly exhibiting their skill in spinning.

We regret to say that scenes so honourable to the patron, so useful to the public, are no more. The linen manufacture at this place has experienced a declension, from which, however, we trust that it will permanently revive, with the aid of natural circumstances so favourable as those it possesses in having an abundance of water and fuel.

Near the town is a Charter School for 50 boys. Sir Richard Cox presented two acres of land for the use of this establishment, and granted a lease, for 990 years, of 18 acres, at a very low rent. He also provided materials for the building, and endowed it with 20*l.* per annum.

Dunmanway is situated in the parish of Fanlobbus, the church of which district was rebuilt in his new town by the Lord Justice Cox, under the sanction of an act of parliament, obtained early in the reign of Anne. In this church was buried the lady of the founder, beneath a handsome monument thus inscribed : " In hopes of a joyful resurrection, is deposited the body of Mary, Lady Cox, the beloved wife of Sir Richard Cox, Knight and Baronet, who was successively lord justice of both benches, lord high chancellor of Ireland, and three times one of the lords justices general, and general governors of this kingdom." The date of decease is June, 1715.

We believe that the town of Dunmanway is now the property of Henry Cox, Esq., resident in North America.

On the southern margin of the small RIVER BRIDE, which takes its rise in the neighbourhood of Kilmurry, and enters the Lee near the church of Inniscarra, are some castellated and ecclesiastical remains, demanding an historical examination. For several miles of its progress this river flows through a fine valley, in the midst of which was formerly the dreary morass known by the name of the Bog of Kilcrea ; a dangerous fastness, rendered impervious to the unaccustomed traveller, by matted bushes, and other wild and unprofitable productions. Numerous vestiges

of large oaks showed that, in times still more antient, the greater part of this vale, and much of the lofty uplands by which it is sheltered, had been engrossed by one vast wood. So recently as the year 1626, the recesses of the vale formed the haunts of wolves. The salutary work of draining the bog was commenced in 1705.

The CASTLE OF KILCREA, situated in this district, was formerly a seat of the Mac Carties, Lords of Muskery and Earls of Clancarty, with attached manorial rights; and is said to have been built, in the fifteenth century, by Cormac, surnamed Laider, Lord Muskery. The ruins evince it to have been a pile of much strength, and of considerable but rude magnificence. A stairway, composed of a dark marble, of which there are quarries in the neighbourhood, led from the ground floor to the summit of the structure, a height of nearly 70 feet. Traces of outworks are still visible; and, on the east side, is the bawn, constituting, when the castle was the abode of its former lordly owners, the place of recreation by day, and of shelter, in the gloom of night, for the cattle of the domain, whose least noxious enemies were the wolves of the adjacent morass and woodlands.

At a short distance from the castle are the ruins of a FRANCISCAN MONASTERY. It is said that a nunnery existed here so early as the sixth century, of which St. Cyra, or Cera, was abbess; and the anniversary of that saint is celebrated on the 16th of October. But all traces of such an institution have long since disappeared. The monastery, whose remains impart a melancholy charm to this neighbourhood, was founded in the year 1645, by Cormac Lord Muskery, to whom the erection of Kilcrea Castle is also attributed. It was placed under the invocation of St. Brigid, and flourished in high reputation until the general suppression of monastic houses.

The Lords Muskery had evinced, in many instances, such exemplary fidelity to the government, that the possessions of this monastery were bestowed on them, at the time of the dissolution;

but, in the wars which began in 1641, they were on the unsuccessful side; and Cromwell gave the lands of Kilkrea to Lord Broghill, the conqueror of Muskerry on the field of Knockicishy.

Previously to those wars, the buildings had sustained little injury; but they were then equally ill-treated by all the conflicting parties. By the foe they were reduced, under an apprehension of their sheltering armed fugitives; and by their professed friends the damages were repaired, in a manner favourable to military defence. Perverted to the uses of a fortress, the monastery received a garrison, under the command of Captain Bailey.

The ruins occupy a retired and beautiful position, on the banks of the Bride. The most desirable entrance is approached through an avenue of venerable trees; and it will be readily supposed, that such a mode of advance greatly conduces towards preparing the mind for the reception of solemn impressions.

It would appear, from the ruins, that the buildings were met of great extent, nor do they exhibit the traces of any architectural peculiarities. They resemble, in design and character, the remains of several other ecclesiastical structures in Ireland, known to have been erected in the fifteenth century; and thus assist in showing that the pointed style of that era, as regards this island, differed little from the architectural mode prevailing at the same time in Britain. From the excellence of the materials (quarries of marble being found in the vicinity) this edifice was of superior delicacy to many in less favoured parts of the country; but there are no indications of it having, even on the interior, partaken largely of embellishment.

The nave and choir of the abbey-church are still remaining, with pointed arches, sustained by massy columns composed of marble.

An awful melancholy hangs over this place. We are here, indeed, in the precincts of the dead alone, and are reminded of the full solemnity of our situation by exhibitions well calculated to "strike out the dimple from the cheek of mirth." Piled in high and wide banks, and, likewise, placed in various parts of the moss-grown ruins, are human skulls and bones, in number,

perhaps, amounting to many thousands. A ghastly scene of mortality, showing little reverence for the dead, or respect for the survivor's feelings! Similar dreary spectacles are presented at the ruined abbeys of Buttevant and Timoleague, in this county. These wrecks of humanity are loosely said to be the remains of persons who fell in some neighbouring great battles; but are, probably, no other than the accumulated superfluities of graves, successively tenanted with indecorous quickness in favourite burial-grounds.

This has long been a popular place of sepulture, and much noble dust mingles with the soil of its gloomy and neglected aisles. In the choir are many decaying monuments; and the interment of the following lords of this district is recorded by Ware, Smith, and other historians.

Cormac Mac Carty, or Carthy, Lord Muskery, surnamed Laider, or the Strong, founder of the abbey. It is stated by Ware that he was buried in the middle of the choir, with the following inscription on his tomb:

“ HIC JACET CORMACUS, FIL. THADRI, FIL. CORMACI, FIL. DERMITH MAGNI M'CARTHY, DNUS. DE MUSGRAIGH FLAYN AC ISTIUS CONVENTUS PRIMUS FUNDATOR. AN. DOM. 1494.

Cormac Oge Laider, son of the founder, buried *ans.* 1536.

Tiege Mac Cormac, Lord Muskery, son of the above, buried 1565.

Dermot, ancestor of the Mac Cartys of Inshirahill, buried 1570.

Cormac, son of the above, buried 1616, being the last of the Lords of Muskery here interred.

Thomas O'Herlihy, bishop of Ross, was also buried here, in 1579; and the names of Barret, O'Leary, and Mac Swiney, may still be seen on several of the monumental stones.

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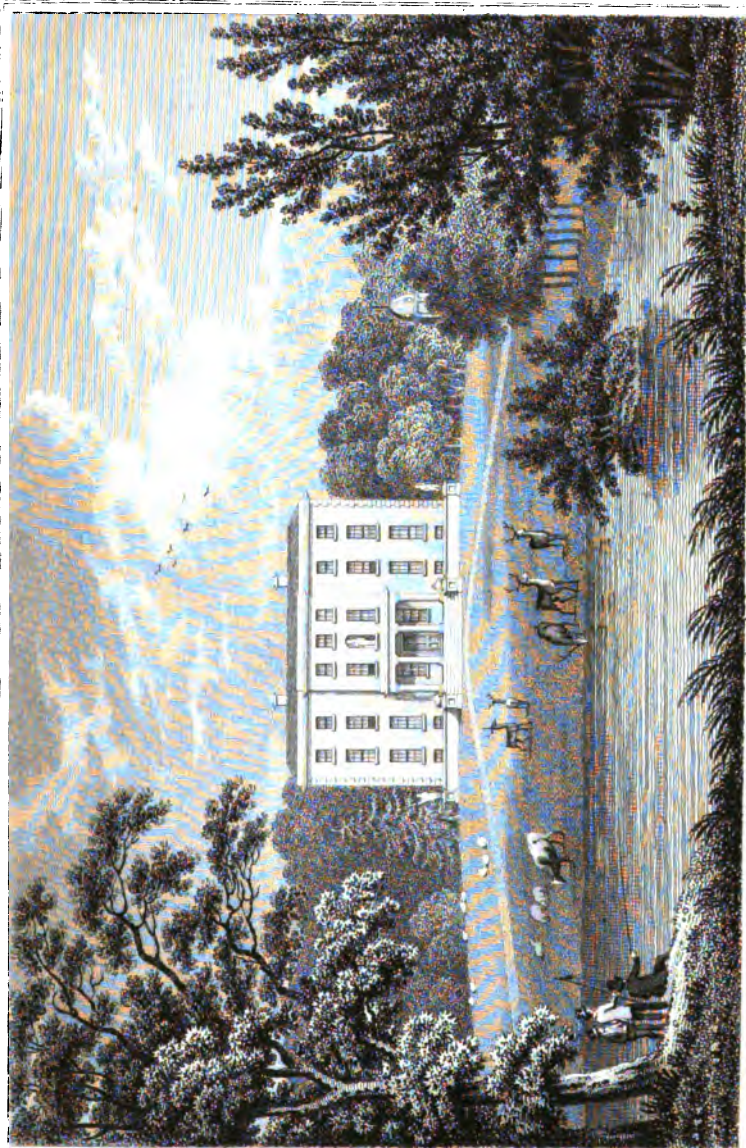
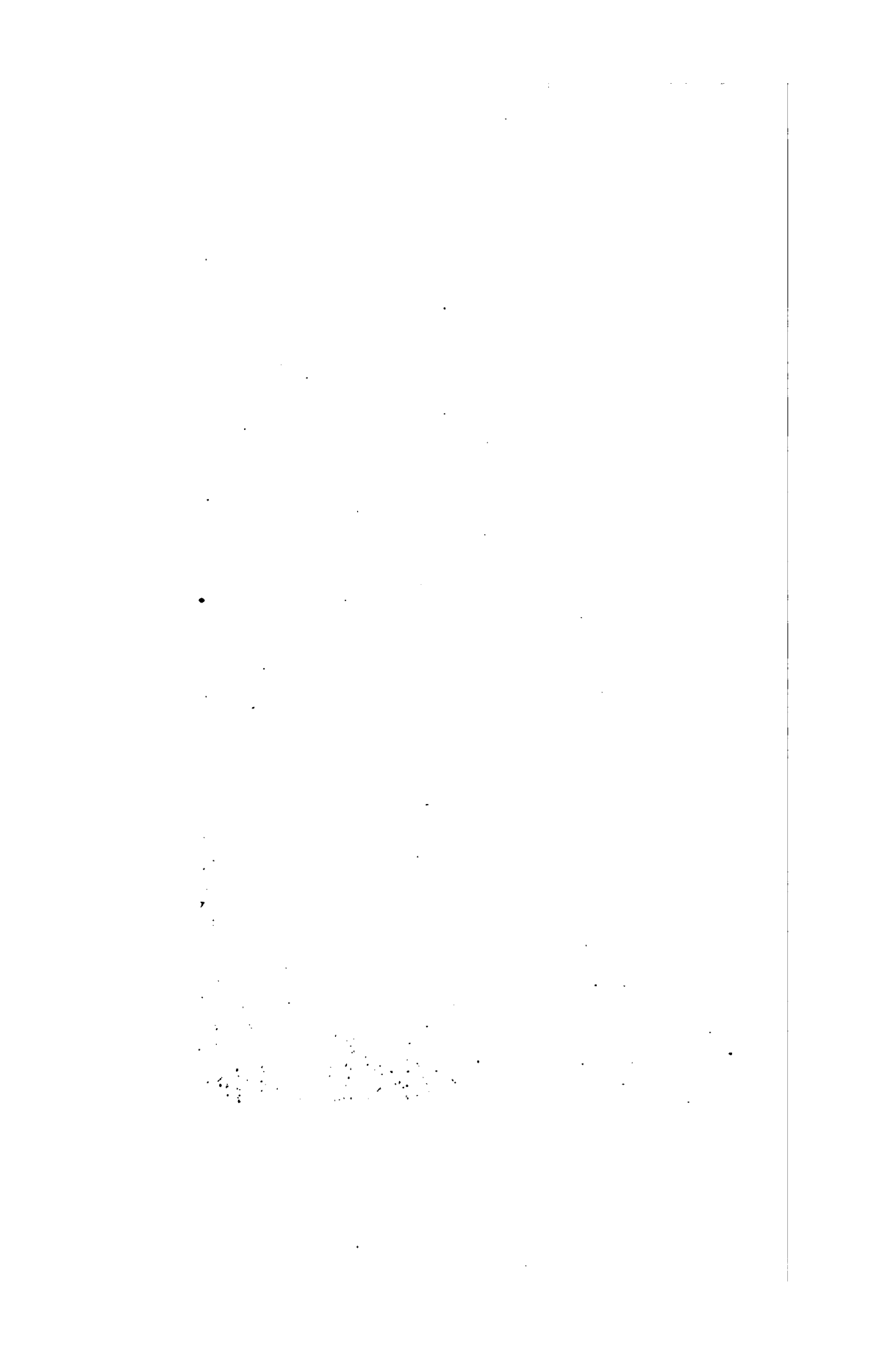


Fig. 14. 24135

BALYNASTRAGH.
Seat of Sir Thomas Esdaile, Bart.
 Co. Wexford.

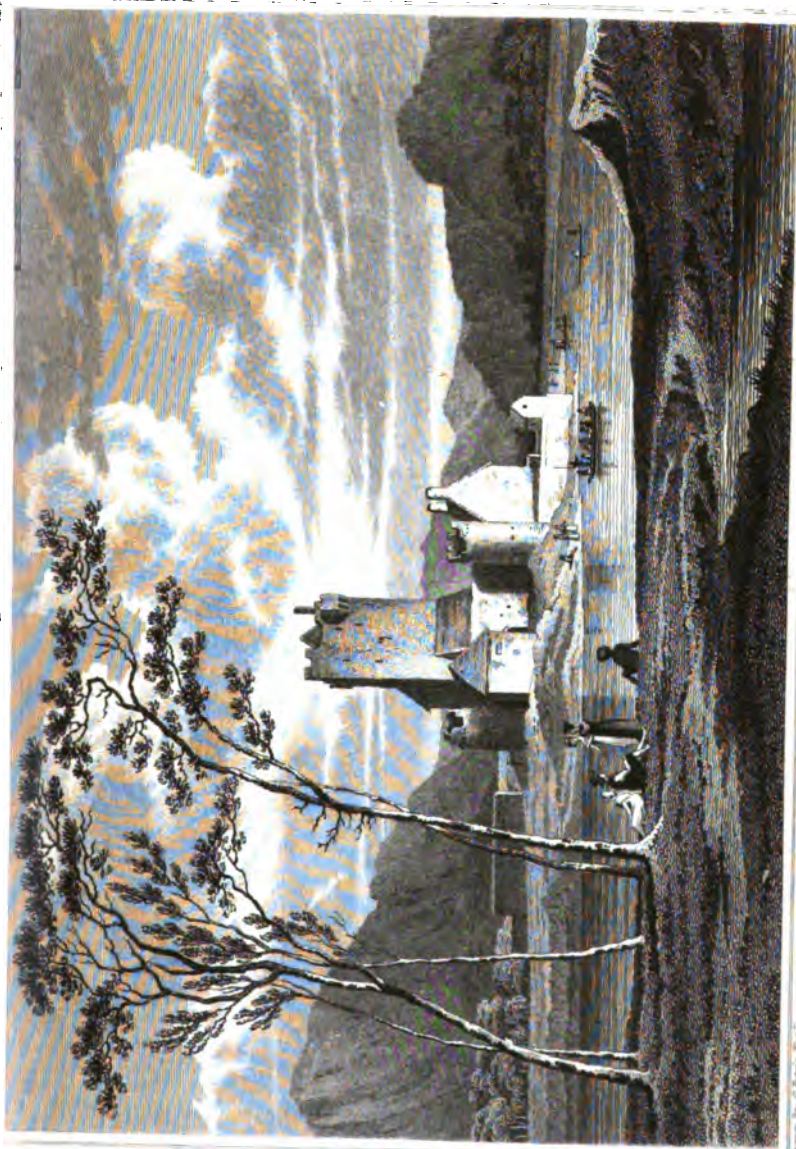
Painted by J. F. W. King





MOUNT BELLEVUE,
West of Chesapeake Bay
Ct. Galloway

Done by G. Galloway



Painted by J. H. P. J. J.

Engraved by J. H. P. J. J.

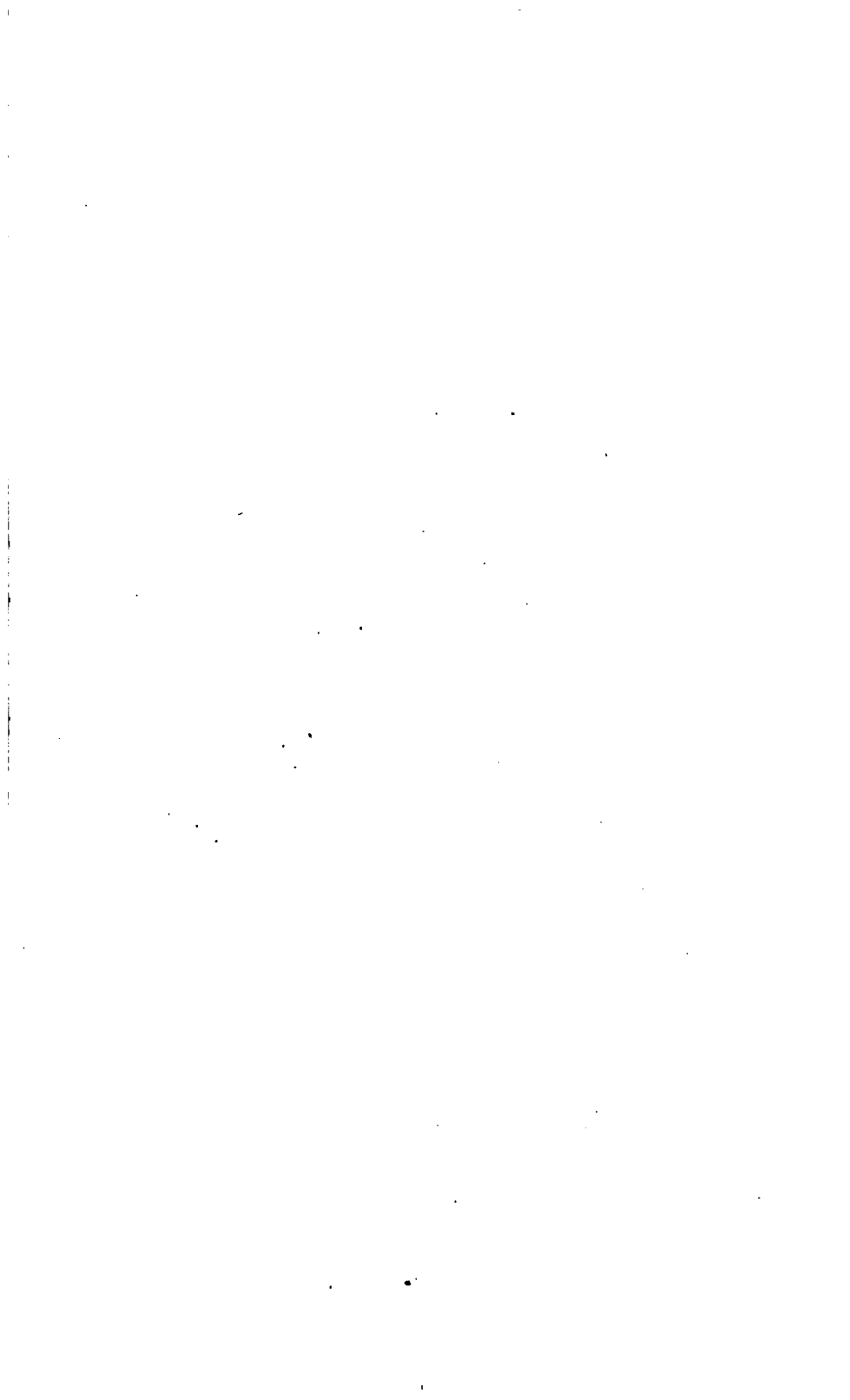
ROSS CASTLE. Co. of Kerry

Designed by J. H. P. J. J.



MOUNT CASHELL.
Co of Tipperary

Published by J. H. S. 1849





Drawn by Geo. Elford

Engr. by J. H. Carter

SWORDS CASTLE, Co. of Dublin.

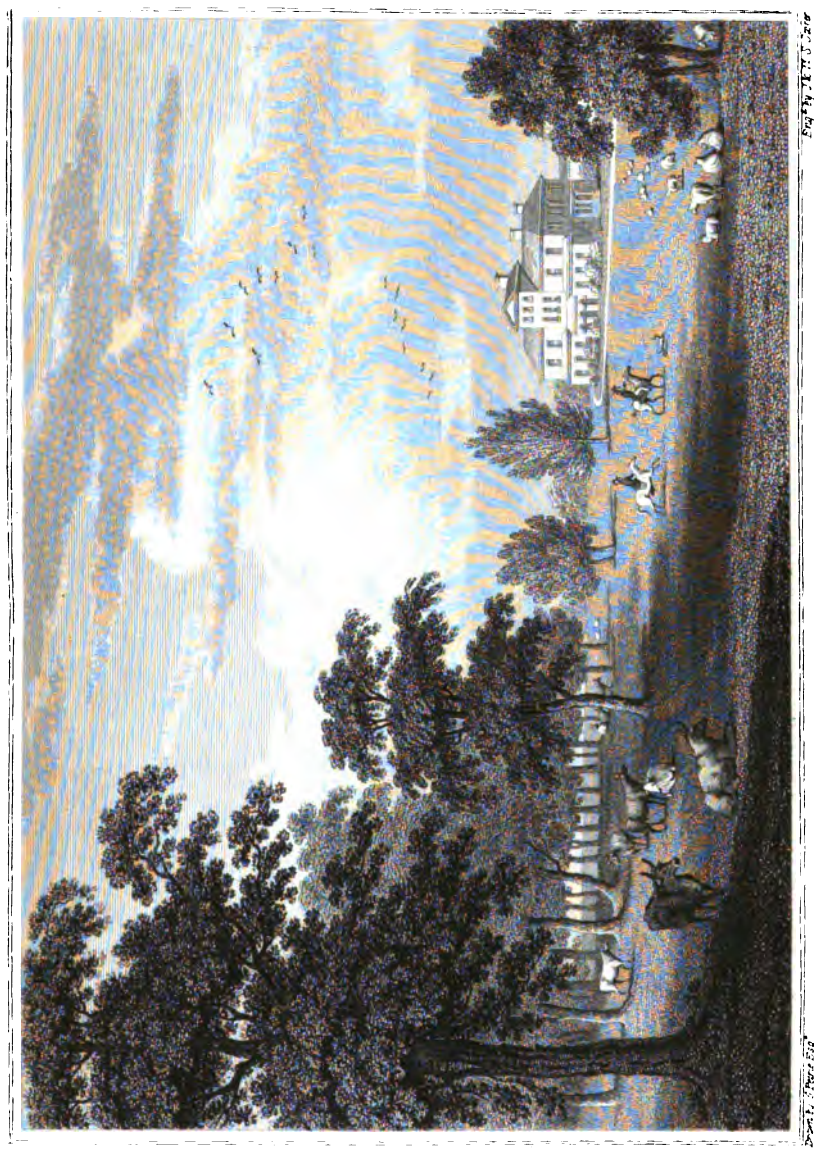
Published by Bernard James, and 14, Sep. 1, 1864



Page 40 of 41 S. Store

ABBAY OF MELLIFERRAN.
Co. of Westmeath

Engraved by J. J. O'Sullivan from a drawing by J. J. O'Sullivan



EDGEWORTH TOWN.
The Seat of Lord Edgeworth Esq.
Co. of Longford

Engr. by T. H. S. Carr

Painted by J. H. P.



CARRICKFERGUS.

Co of Antrim

Printed by J. B. S. Carr

Printed by J. B. S. Carr



PARSONS TOWN CASTLE,

from the tower of the castle



RUINS OF CLONNACNOIS

• Kings Co

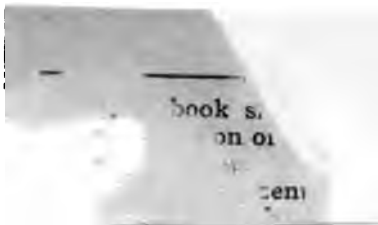


Eng. J. K. H. J. S. 1870

ANTIQUITIES AT MOUNT CASHIEL.

Co. of Tipperary

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